In Memoriam.

DR. ALDEN MARCH.

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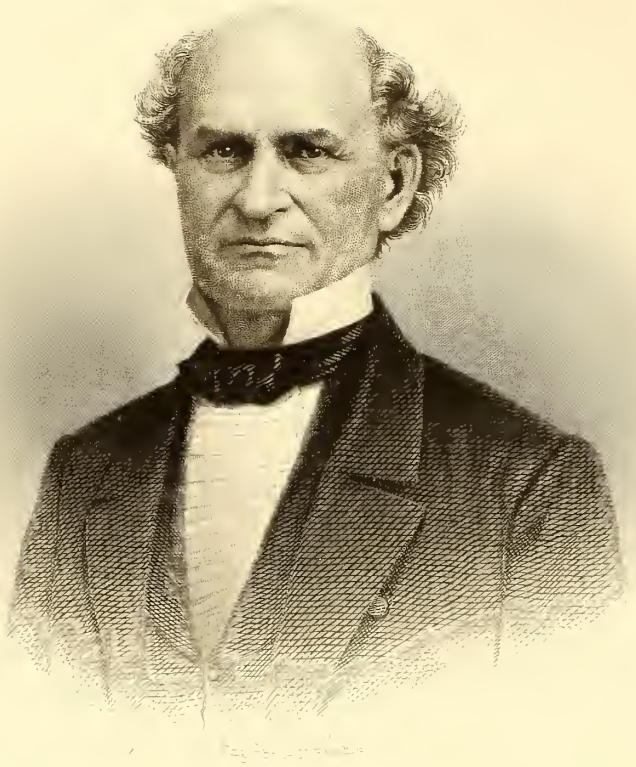

Alden March

TRIBUTE

TO THE MEMORY OF

ALDEN MARCH, M.D., LL.D.

ALBANY:
PRINTING HOUSE OF CHARLES VAN BENTHUYSEN & SONS.
1870.

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"AND I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING UNTO ME, WRITE, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD FROM HENCEFORTH: YEA, SAITH THE SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS; AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM."

REV. xiv. 13.

Funeral Address.

By WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D.D.

We are accustomed to speak of the *silence* of Death; and yet Death is one of the most eloquent of all God's ministers. His deliverances have respect to the past, the present and the future. He puts us into communion with scenes gone by, and gathers from them an argument for humility and gratitude and fresh consecration to our appointed work. He admonishes us of the brevity of life, of the importance of each passing hour, of the rapidity with which we are moving onward. And, standing forth in the light of God's revealed truth, he assures us that his victories in respect to the Christian are all nothing but the precursor of an exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Death's utterances, then, are to be reverently listened to and heeded always; and when they come hand in hand with our ever blessed Christianity, well may they be accepted with gratitude and praise.

There is a diversity in the lives and characters and deaths of good men, which we must not overlook if we will learn all the lessons which they teach from

their coffins. The Providence of God orders their lot respectively with reference to the accomplishment of different ends. The Grace of God performs its sanctifying work in unequal degrees and through various instrumentalities. And Death, in moving about as God's agent, approaches sometimes by one path, and sometimes by another; and though he always accomplishes substantially the same object in respect to both body and soul, yet the particular lessons he teaches are modified by the circumstances in which he performs his office. But, instead of following out these several thoughts in their application to our lamented friend, I design to show what he was in the days of his vigorous and mature usefulness, and what we believe he now is as a minister around the throne, and to trace the process by which his high character and destiny have been attained.

As I must pass rapidly over this ground, much, of course, must be left unsaid, which the tender associations of the hour, as well as our own appreciation of the admirable qualities of the departed, would naturally suggest.

In speaking of our friend as we have known him in the past, it is natural that we should view him first in *his domestic relations*, — as the life and joy of a happy home. Within that sacred enclosure his heart always seemed full of blessing; the result of which was that he drew all the members of his household around him by a cord of unwonted reverence and

tenderness. I understand that he was a model both in the conjugal and parental relations; that his presence in his own endeared circle was always welcomed as a benediction; that his discipline, dictated by kindness, and guided by calm discretion, seemed only as the legitimate working of the law of love. His perfect regularity in all his domestic habits generated an atmosphere around him eminently favourable to the growth of intelligence and virtue. And, to crown all, he had in his house an altar consecrated to family worship; and nothing of a mere worldly nature could ever prevent him from engaging in that service at the appointed time; and his prayers, as I am assured by a most competent witness, while they were distinguished for an impressive fervour, were marked also by a singular adaptation to surrounding circumstances. I believe it is the opinion of those who were most familiar with the routine of his daily life, that his character shone nowhere more brightly than amidst the quiet, devout and loving demonstrations of his own fireside.

And if we follow him from his own dwelling into *the wider circle of friends and acquaintances*, we find the same qualities that adorned his character at home still conspicuous. He was genial, affable, courteous in his intercourse, a model of propriety and dignity always; and wherever he moved or wherever he paused, he was recognized as an attraction. He never lost any one's respect by what seemed a sacrifice of

principle in accommodation to circumstances — on the contrary, he adhered with great firmness to his own well-matured convictions, no matter what might be the measure of inconvenience or self-denial it involved. All who knew him revered him; while those who knew him best, loved and honoured him most.

In his *professional character and relations* it may safely be said that Dr. March attained very high distinction. From the time of his settlement in this city, in 1820, he devoted himself with singular zeal to the duties of his profession, and very soon acquired a distinguished reputation in the department of Surgery; and here he achieved, through life, his greatest professional triumphs. The witnesses to his surgical skill are scattered all over the land; and the fame of it has found its way across the ocean. His attentions to his medical patients were always most exemplary, and his large heart never declined a call because it came from the abode of poverty. Of the Albany Medical College and the Albany City Hospital he was the projector, and one of the most vigorous early supporters; and his zeal for sustaining and advancing the interests of both these institutions never faltered to the last. With his brethren of the medical profession he was on terms of unreserved intimacy, — ever ready to communicate his own thoughts or discoveries, and equally ready to heed and profit by their suggestions. The testimony which they

have already rendered and which is confirmed by their large and reverent attendance here to-day, shows how deeply they feel the inroad which Death has made upon their number. And I may add that various other societies to which he sustained a more or less intimate relation, and one meeting in which there was a representation of our citizens at large, have recorded their estimate of his character in language that could be applied to but few of his cotemporaries.

I must say a word in regard to the place which our departed friend held *in the Church*, and as the sustainer of all Christian institutions. He came into the Church, as one of its communicants, more than twenty-five years ago, under the ministry of the late Dr. Campbell; and, as might be expected from his naturally quiet and thoughtful spirit, he came without any extraordinary demonstrations. But he evidently brought with him, and has manifested through his whole subsequent course, a resolute purpose to do his duty in humble dependence on God's gracious Spirit; and herein consists the very essence of practical Christianity. It was an occasion of regret to his brethren and sisters of the Church, and, no doubt, to himself also, that they were not permitted to hear his voice in connection with their social week-day services, but this was probably attributable to a diffidence induced partly, at least, by his being somewhat advanced in life when he

made a Christian profession. His deep interest in all that pertained to spiritual religion was manifested by his devout attendance on these exercises, as well as his more private communications with Christian friends, and I may add, the general tenor of his life. Into all good enterprises, whether designed to act upon the interests of religion at home or abroad, he entered with his whole heart, and never seemed to grow weary in well-doing. His influence, I understand, was earnestly and effectively put forth, in the erection of this commodious and beautiful edifice; and he has long exercised a watchful care over the financial interests of the congregation as President of its Board of Trustees. His ear has always been open to the calls of suffering humanity, and his hand open to administer the needed relief or supply. The far off Pagans, bowing before idols, he has not forgotten, either in his prayers or in his alms; and it is by no means improbable that there are spots in those desert lands that have brightened into spiritual verdure through his instrumentality.

It were impossible to do full justice to the Christian character of Dr. March, without some allusion to the manner in which he endured his last sufferings and met the last enemy. Until within a few weeks his prospects of continued life were, I suppose, as good as those of any person of equal age before me. He was suddenly taken off from his professional labours, but, from his natural vigour of constitution, it

was hoped that he might soon be able to resume them. Each successive day, however, seemed to render his case increasingly doubtful, and his own skill, exercised upon himself, soon revealed to him symptoms of approaching death. But this did not alarm him. He was willing to leave himself in his Redeemer's hands, and felt the utmost confidence that, whether the issue were life or death, it would be well with him. He not only joined thankfully and earnestly in the prayers that were offered at his bedside, and poured forth fervent supplications from his own lips, but even requested that a song should be sung in honour of the Conqueror of Death; and his own trembling, faltering voice helped to perform the affecting service. The agony of his death-bed was intense, but it was well-nigh neutralized by his glorious visions of the future. The friends who gathered around him to receive his last farewell, could not resist the impression that he was moving fearlessly and triumphantly through the dark valley. And when they saw that the last struggle was over, they felt assured that the glories of an immortal life were bursting upon him.

I have spoken of what he *has been* in his various relations—and now shall I say a word of what we believe *he has become* since these relations have ceased to exist? We believe that he has been advanced into a glorified saint; that he is at home among the angels; that he is dressed in white robes; that he

bears the palm of victory; that he is lost in the admiration of the wonders of redeeming mercy; and that he joins with all the ransomed in that new and noble song,—"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing." We believe that, in becoming an inhabitant of the third heavens, he has entered on a career of happiness and glory as boundless as God's own existence.

You will not, I hope, think that, in the representation I have now made of the friend whose death we lament, I have intended, even by implication, to ignore the fact that he was a sharer in the weaknesses and sins of the common humanity. That he had faults I know, because he was human; but what they were I know not. Suffice it to say that, while they were not palpable enough to interfere with his usefulness, his virtues and graces were sufficiently prominent to become deservedly enshrined in our grateful remembrances.

Having thus attempted to show, in the briefest manner, what our departed friend was while he was in the midst of us, and what he is since he has passed on to mingle in higher scenes, let me now hint at the process by which this result has been reached.

And you will anticipate me when I say that it had its beginning in the *original qualities* with which his Creator endowed him. His physical constitution was one of great vigour, and of much more than ordinary

power of endurance. His mind was naturally active, well-balanced, practical; and its capability of acquiring, retaining and digesting knowledge, remarkable. He had a kindly and generous spirit, united with great thoughtfulness and strength of purpose. So much as this may be reckoned as included in his original constitution, as he came from his Creator's hands.

Consider, next, the *favourable circumstances* under which the development of his faculties, the formation of his character, took place. Born of parents who were not so opulent as to relieve him from the necessity of personal effort, and in a part of the country where it was both fashionable and honourable to work, he had neither the temptation nor the opportunity to form a habit of indolent inaction — on the contrary, the strongest motives were pressing upon him to make the best use of his time. The public schools in which he received his early training fitted him to enter upon his professional studies; and in the prosecution of these he was not only aided by his own brother, who was a Surgeon in the army of the United States, but ultimately became a member of a medical institution connected with Brown University. Meanwhile, especially as long as he remained at home, his lot was cast amidst eminently Christian influences; so that all his early impressions were favourable to religion. When he began his professional life, and became a resident of this city, he

soon found himself in circumstances fitted at once to encourage and strengthen him — with an ample field for labour, and in a circle of kindred spirits ready to meet him in goodly co-operation. He gradually gained access to places of the highest influence; and in due time was instrumental in establishing noble institutions which re-acted most benignly and effectively upon his own character. I hardly need add that, amid all the worldly influences that have pressed upon him here, he has always been within the range of Christian institutions and Christian examples, and has been a constant hearer of the faithful preaching of the Gospel.

But that which constituted the crowning glory of the character of our friend was a living, all-pervading piety; and for that he was indebted to God's *gracious, sanctifying Spirit.* He might indeed have been the skilful physician, the active member of society, the generous sympathizing friend, without this new-creating agency; but the clean heart, and the right spirit, and the final companionship with angels, he never could have attained without it. And not only did the Spirit first implant in his soul the principle of the new life, but it has preserved and quickened and finally matured it. It is the Spirit that has guided him in his most ordinary pursuits; that has sanctified him by the severest discipline; that has caused the sun of righteousness to shine down into his soul through the night-clouds of death; and that has fixed

him at last, inside the gates of the Heavenly city, a monument of redeeming love.

Thus it appears that the God of Nature, the God of Providence, the God of Grace, is to be reverently acknowledged in the life and character and destiny of him who has now passed away — the God of Nature, in bestowing the original material that has been thus moulded and formed; the God of Providence, in ordering events with reference to the result that has been produced; and the God of Grace, in giving a new heart and opening the gates of Heaven. While we admire and venerate the character of our friend, let us give all the glory to Him whose wisdom and goodness and grace have fashioned it.

It is fitting that we should mourn when our dear friends are taken away; and if, in one point of view, the measure of our grief may well be determined by the degree of excellence of which we are deprived, in another, this very consideration may be regarded as opening the channel for a greater or less amount of comfort. In the present case, need I say that, whatever view we take of the character or the life, of the past, of the present or the future, there is consolation flowing from every direction. Your dear father and friend was eminently favoured both in respect to his original endowments and the whole ordering of his earthly lot, and he has passed through a long life, not only with a stainless character but in the full enjoyment of a widely extended and most honourable

reputation. And what is more, infinitely more, he has long been an earnest and consistent Christian; has showed himself at home amidst the most humble and self-denying labours; and has rendered a decisive and grateful testimony to the truth and the power of his religion in the closing hours of life; and, finally, has passed on, as you confidently believe, to mingle with the General Assembly and Church of the first-born. Mourn you may — mourn indeed you must; but surely your mourning must be qualified with thankfulness and praise. Well may you bless God for having given you such a father and friend; and for having continued him to you so long; and for giving you such evidence that he has now become a king and a priest unto God. What remains but that you treasure his words of Christian counsel; that you ponder his holy example; that you walk in the footsteps of his faith; and thus keep yourselves ready, at the bidding of the great Master, to ascend in his upward track and join him in the services of the eternal temple.

Next to his own beloved family and near relatives, those who were immediately associated with him in his professional life, and those of whose medical education he has had the partial or the entire superintendence, may be supposed to share most deeply the sorrows of this bereavement. Let the truly Christian spirit that he breathed in the lecture-room, at the sick bed, and in all his intercourse with his

brethren, be reproduced and cherished and matured in all of you, until you are safely and triumphantly gathered in that world where the inhabitants shall no more say, I am sick.

To the members of this ancient and venerable congregation, the death of one of their number, so useful and honoured and devoted, comes charged with impressive meaning. There are a few here whose memories go back to the period when he first became one of you, and, though he was never within my pastoral charge, it was my privilege to recognize him as a friend from the beginning of my residence here, which was only a few years later than the beginning of his own; and I am sure that my recollection and estimate of his whole course are in harmony with yours, and that we remember nothing concerning him that we are not willing to embalm. May God grant that his good influence here may last through many coming years; that the Church to whose interests he was so conscientiously and faithfully devoted may still keep on in its Divinely appointed work, sharing more and more richly in the grace from above; and that, as its members successively pass away, each one may form a fresh addition to the ranks of the ransomed and glorified.

DEATH OF DR. ALDEN MARCH.

ALBANY EVENING JOURNAL.

Thursday June 17, 1869.

Dr. Alden March has gone to his rest. He died this morning at fifteen minutes past seven o'clock at the residence of his son-in-law, David I. Boyd, No. 2 Park Place, where he was removed, when taken ill, to be spared the annoyance of business importunities. No one among us was more beloved, or possessed, in a higher degree, all the noble qualities of the good physician and Christian gentleman.

Dr. Alden March was born in Sutton, Worcester County, Mass., in 1795. His early life was passed on a farm, and the rudiments of his education acquired in public schools, in which, for a short time, he was was a teacher.

He studied medicine with an elder brother, who was Surgeon in the United States army, and attended medical lectures in Boston. He graduated at the

Brown University, Providence, R. I., which, at that time, had a Department of Medicine. Williams College conferred the degree of LL. D. on Dr. March, and he was Honorary member of most of the leading societies of this country. While a student of medicine, he was distinguished for his zeal and industry in the study of Anatomy, and this laid a firm foundation for his future surgical renown. In the pursuit of his studies, no difficulty seemed too great, no obstacle too formidable, for him to overcome. And the same indomitable will, perseverance and enthusiasm, have characterized his whole professional life. He came to Albany in 1820, and immediately commenced the practice of his profession, which he pursued with untiring devotion and success until his death.

His often repeated wish, that he might "die with his armor on," has been amply fulfilled; for, until within the last few weeks, he has been most actively engaged in the laborious duties of his profession.

Immediately previous to his sickness, he made the journey to New Orleans, to attend a meeting of the National Medical Association, of which he had been an honored member and President. On his return, he was in usual health, engaged actively in surgical practice, and only found time occasionally to look after the affairs of his farm, a few miles out of town. He was passionately fond of agricultural pursuits, and in this way exposed himself to cold, which kindled into activity a chronic disease, from which

he had long and uncomplainingly suffered. He was attended by his beloved colleagues and friends, Dr. James McNaughton, Dr. James P. Boyd, and his brother-in-law, Dr. Armsby, and during his last illness was visited by most of the medical gentlemen of the city.

His death, in the full vigor of mental and physical activity and usefulness, will leave a void in our city and in the profession, that will be most deeply felt and deplored. Dr. March was one of the most remarkable and gifted men of his time. No medical man in this country was more widely known, or more highly respected and esteemed. It was the common remark and testimony of medical men, that Dr. March was the highest and best surgical authority in this country. Among the prominent medical men of Europe, whose acquaintance he had made during his frequent visits abroad, he was everywhere received with distinguished notice and honor. No improvement in his profession escaped his attention and investigation. His bold and independent habits of thought and action were always conspicuous, and he originated many new and important improvements in surgical science. As a bold, dexterous and skilful operator, Dr. March had no superior in this or any country. This is the universal testimony of the profession, and especially of those who have enjoyed the most extensive opportunities of foreign travel and observation. Few persons ever combined so many

of the elements of a great and successful surgeon. He had a frame of wonderful power and endurance, a mind of electric quickness and ceaseless activity, with skill in discrimination, and tact, and dexterity in execution, which carried him successfully through the most difficult and trying ordeal of surgical practice. He was a most thorough student of Anatomy, having taught this branch ten years, before he occupied the chair of Surgery in our Medical College. Thus armed with accurate knowledge and skill, he was never dismayed by the magnitude or danger of a Surgical operation, upon which, perhaps, the safety or life of his patient depended. Having prepared himself for every emergency, he would commence an operation with calmness and self-possession, which inspired hope and confidence in his patients, and excited admiration and astonishment among his assistants and associates. He never seemed to consider that his own reputation was at stake, when the most hazardous operation gave but a slight hope of saving the life of a patient.

At all hours of the day or night, his best services were cheerfully and promptly rendered, without partiality, to the poor and the rich alike; and while he required just compensation from one class, he rendered as faithful and willing service to the other.

But the great beauty of his character was in his domestic and Christian life. No man was more loving, or more beloved in his house, than Dr. March,

and no one in the Church, of which he was a main pillar, was looked up to with more respect and confidence. His whole life was characterized by simplicity, honesty and integrity, as evinced in the faithful fulfilment of every trust confided to his care during a long life of public service and honor.

He was the father and one of the founders of the Albany Medical College, and its offspring, the Albany City Hospital. More than forty years ago he delivered a public lecture "On the Propriety of Establishing a Medical College and Hospital in the city of Albany." Among the last acts of his eventful life, he donated to these institutions, each $1,000. To the College he bequeathed his pathological museum, the most extensive and valuable in this country, with $1,000, the interest of which is to be perpetually employed for its care and preservation. To the Hospital he had given the same amount, the interest to be expended for the purchase of surgical instruments for use in the Hospital.

The name of Dr. March has long been a household word throughout the land. His students are numbered by thousands, in whose hearts his memory is embalmed forever. Every one has some kind and cherished remembrance of his honored and beloved preceptor. Wherever a student or graduate of the Albany Medical College is found, (and they are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land,) it is claimed, as his highest honor and merit,

that "he has been a student of Dr. March, of Albany."

When the deceased came to this city, it had a population of less than fifteen thousand. With the enterprise and activity which have characterized his whole life, he at once conceived the idea of establishing a Medical College and Hospital here. At that time there was but one hospital and two colleges in the State. He began a course of lectures on Anatomy in 1821, in the attic of an old building in Montgomery street, above Columbia. His first class of students numbered fourteen, most of whom were young physicians. His material for demonstration was brought overland from Boston, at great expense and personal risk. These lectures were continued, and petitions were circulated among our citizens, year after year, for a charter for a medical college. At length, with the aid of his associate, Dr. Armsby, and the support of prominent citizens of Albany, a charter was obtained from the Legislature, and our Medical College was organized, and commenced operations January 3d, 1839. Dr. March has been at the head of this institution thirty years, after having labored eighteen years to prepare the way for its establishment. This institution, the fruit of his labors and enterprise, the church which he has contributed so largely to build up, and the hospital with which he has been so prominently identified since its foundation, and the various other public enterprises with

which he has been connected, will associate his name with the history and progress of Albany, as enduringly as that of any other citizen.

The whole city and country will mourn the death of Dr. March, and pay fitting tribute to his memory.

ALBANY MORNING EXPRESS.

With pain none the less poignant and sorrow none the less profound because it has been expected for some days, does this community receive the mournful intelligence of the death of Dr. Alden March. To many it comes with the oppressive force of a personal stroke, while to a still wider circle it conveys the deep sense of an irreparable public loss. And such, indeed, it is. If the ranks of citizenship may afford another as worthy, his exalted place in science will still be vacant. If others may continue his generous public benefactions, there is none to bear the mantle of the incomparable instructor. His title to esteem and honor was large and varied. To friends he was endeared as the man of gentle and kindly sympathy. To thousands of students his memory was fresh as that of a matchless teacher. To the world he was known as the consummate chief of his profession.

And to all the extinguishment of his light is the departure of a glory which cannot be replaced.

Dr. March was born in Sutton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, in September, 1795, and was consequently, at his death, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Spending his early years on a farm and in the public schools, he acquired such education as they furnished, and for a short time served as a teacher. An elder brother was an army surgeon, and with him Dr. March began his medical studies. Subsequently he attended lectures in Boston, and graduated in the Medical Department of Brown University. While yet a student he manifested a peculiar zeal for Anatomy, and thus indicated the bent of his remarkable genius. The same indefatigable industry and eager enthusiasm which have distinguished his whole professional life, characterized his student days, and foretokened his subsequent eminence. In 1820 he took up his residence in this city, and began that successful career which has extended through half a century and made his name known throughout the world.

Albany was then a city of only fifteen thousand inhabitants. It had none of the institutions which have since made it an educational centre. But the reputation of Dr. March rapidly rose and attracted students from all parts of the country. Even when he was himself a student he was preparing the way for the Albany Medical College. Of his early labors

in this direction an interesting account was given by his own lips at the Festival of the County Medical Society in 1867 — strange comment upon the vicissitudes of life that both the presiding officer, Dr. Pomfret, and the most distinguished guest, Dr. March, should have passed away before either of the three venerable physicians, Drs. James McNaughton, B. P. Staats and James Wade, in whose honor the festival was given! On this occasion Dr. March related how, while a student at Boston, he collected materials, forming the nucleus of a museum and laying the foundation of the Medical College. As early as 1821, he began a course of lectures on Anatomy in an ancient garret on Montgomery street. His first class numbered fourteen. In those days it was unsafe to procure anatomical material in this city. The young lecturer was thus compelled to make the overland journey to Boston with horse and wagon, but there was no obstacle which his unflagging zeal and perseverance could not overcome, and his lectures regularly continued. In 1825, he was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Academy of Medicine at Castleton, Vermont. That position he held for ten years, delivering his lectures in the autumn, and still continuing his practice and private lectures in this city.

In 1831, Dr. Armsby became a student of Dr. March, and ever since they have held the most intimate relations. The project of a Medical College

was prosecuted with renewed vigor, the enthusiastic earnestness and untiring efforts of the younger of the professional brothers ably seconding the labors of the elder. At length the College was chartered, under the Presidency of Dr. March, and the inaugural lecture was given on the 3d of January, 1839. But a Hospital was also to be called into being. As early as 1829, Dr. March had delivered a public lecture on the importance of such an institution. In this idea, also, he had the zealous and effective co-operation of Dr. Armsby, and, in 1849, the Hospital was incorporated. The regard which Dr. March cherished for these institutions was shown not only by his long and faithful services to both, but by the liberal donation of a thousand dollars to each. Over the College he has presided for thirty years, and more than three thousand students have sat under his instructions.

As a Surgeon, Dr. March stood in the front rank. His fame not only filled his own land, but extended to medical circles throughout Europe. Indeed, competent authorities assert that he was unquestionably the foremost surgeon of the world. When Dr. Brainard, himself an eminent lecturer, returned from Europe, he expressed the general judgment in his exclamation, "Dr. March is ahead of them all." He had rare qualifications for the work. His extraordinary nerve fitted him to meet the most appalling difficulties, and carried him undaunted through the most trying ordeals. His grace, too, was as marvel-

ous as his power. Dr. Howard Townsend, whose fine and delicate sense of artistic beauty was unexcelled, often expressed his great admiration of the unrivalled style, so to speak, in which Dr. March operated. Every movement was the embodiment of grace, and revealed the hand of the master. To these natural endowments of inflexible firmness, of intuitive perceptions, of swift decision and fine symmetry of motion, he united the rarest acquisitions of science. With a native taste for anatomy, he knew its most recondite secrets. His alert and penetrating mind grasped everything within its wide realm. He originated the valuable system of cliniques, which has since been adopted in all our medical institutions, and his name is honorably identified with other improvements in the science and in the art of instruction. As a lecturer and demonstrator he was unsurpassed, while, as a sure, dexterous and consummate operator, he stood, by common consent, at the head.

In private life, Dr. March was greatly and justly esteemed. By his family and friends he was deeply beloved. By the community he was profoundly respected. He was a citizen of public spirit, and, above all, a Christian of exemplary life. His simple virtues blended beautifully with his unostentatious greatness, and cast a benign influence upon every circle in which he moved. His death is a signal loss not only to the friends whom he constantly cheered by his example, not only to the city which he has

adorned and assisted with such enduring institutions, but to the entire country which recognized and was proud of his fame.

There is, indeed, something which impresses itself with peculiar force when the good physician dies. To hundreds he has been the minister of life. They come to regard him as the combatant of death, and when the skilful arm which has shielded them is itself struck with the mortal paralysis, they feel the shock with a keener sensitiveness. And that was a touching scene when those who had been the co-laborers of Dr. March came to bid farewell to the dying physician. Many of them were his pupils in years gone by, and had drawn from the ample stores of his knowledge useful and lasting lessons. Others, forming his acquaintance later in life, had learned to admire him for his superior skill, and to love him for his kindly heart. On all rested the shadow of a deep grief. He, whose well-trained eye was so quick to detect the approach of danger, and whose hand was so potent to save, lay himself within the portals of death's door. Mournfully they bade him farewell, speaking as to one starting on a long journey — while his words to them were calm as became a thoughtful man — hopeful as befitted a devout Christian. And so in the repose of serene peace he laid aside his armor!

MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF ALBANY.

A meeting of citizens was held this morning at 10 o'clock, in the rooms of the Board of Trade, to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Dr. Alden March. Many of our prominent citizens were present.

The meeting was called to order by Stewart McKissock, Esq., on whose motion Hon. Thomas W. Olcott was called to the Chair, and Mr. Chas. E. Smith was made Secretary. On motion, the Chairman appointed the following Committee on Resolutions: Messrs. S. O. Shepard, Hon. R. W. Peckham, Frank Chamberlain, S. McKissock and George Dawson.

Judge Peckham, from the Committee on Resolutions, reported the following:

In the full maturity of years, ripened by the experience of generations, but with his faculties still unimpaired and his armor undimmed, Dr. Alden March has just gone to his rest.

Eminent in his profession, earnest in purpose, unsullied in reputation, faithfully did he pursue, and grandly did he accomplish the life-work to which he was called.

He has bequeathed to our city the memory of his professional renown, of his industrious and useful life, of his social virtues, and his Christian manhood. Therefore, it is

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Alden March, this community has sustained the loss of one of its most distinguished members; one whose character combined, in the rarest proportions, those qualities which ensure distinction, which command the admira-

tion of those who are competent to appreciate greatness, as well as the esteem of those who can appreciate goodness.

Resolved, That from whatever stand-point we contemplate our deceased fellow citizen, honest manhood, earnestness of purpose, purity of life and kindness of heart, all assume their positions in the beautiful symmetry of his character, and lend their attractiveness to the grand proportions of his professional renown.

Resolved, That we tender to his family our sympathy in their affliction, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to them.

When the resolutions were read, Judge HARRIS said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN—The business of the hour has been arrested that we might turn aside and pay a tribute of respect to the memory of one of our most highly esteemed and distinguished citizens. The announcement of the death of Dr. ALDEN MARCH has awakened throughout the entire city a profound sense of bereavement.

Though he had attained the allotted age of man, yet he has died in the midst of his activity and usefulness, and when human foresight would have assigned to him more years of vigorous health. His death repeats to us, in the most impressive form, the melancholy lesson of our own mortality.

Death is, indeed, busy in our midst. How often do we miss, in our daily walks, the familiar face of one and another whom we had been accustomed to meet! At this very hour the grave is open to receive another of our most estimable and worthy citizens. Is there not in these sad events a solemn lesson for us all? When death comes so near to us

and so frequently, shall we not listen to his voice, imperious yet admonitory, "Be ye also ready?"

How soon, Mr. Chairman, may some kind friend invoke for you and me, the same tribute which we now so justly pay to the memory of our departed friend and fellow-citizen?

Mr. Chairman, a great sorrow has indeed fallen upon our city. Dr. March was a most remarkable man. His character was of a marked and lofty type. Without fortune, without influential friends, without any superior advantages of education, he commenced his career in this city nearly fifty years ago; and, by his energy and persevering industry, has raised himself to the very highest measure of professional eminence.

Our community, in his death, has lost one of its noblest men. There are few remaining among us whose place can be less easily filled. No man was more universally beloved. The death of none would be more universally lamented. As a man who adorned his profession, we honored him; as a man of noble character, we cherish his memory; as a true and faithful friend, he was beloved by us all; as a consistent Christian, we admired him most of all. What a glorious example, living and dying, he has left for our imitation.

Dr. March has passed through the vicissitudes of a long life. He has met and manfully fulfilled the duties allotted to him. Death came to him in the

ripeness of his years, his virtues and his fame. No stain rests upon his honored name. There was a moral beauty in his life, and we do well to commemorate his virtues.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, we pay our last tribute to the memory of one whose life has been long and useful and eminent. Rarely, indeed, have the portals of the sepulchre opened to receive a better man. There have been very few whose labors have been more useful, or who have secured for themselves a reputation more enviable or enduring. We respected and admired him while living, and, now that he is dead, we render our sincere homage to his memory.

Hon. Amasa J. Parker followed in an impressive address, directed particularly to the professional eminence of Dr. March. He said we had assembled to pay a tribute to the memory of a truly great man; of one who was profoundly esteemed by the community in which we live. Under such circumstances, no martial music, no waving of flags, no grand military or civic parade, is necessary to gather the citizens together. We come impelled by the deep sense of a great public loss. He did not purpose to speak of the admirable personal qualities which made Dr. March so greatly beloved by all who knew him — that had been fittingly done by the gentleman who had just taken his seat, and, were he to go over the ground again, it would be but a needless repetition.

He desired to direct his few remarks especially to the professional success and eminence of Dr. March. In this city, distinguished for its honored and successful physicians and surgeons, the lamented dead was universally recognized while living, as standing at the head. This, in itself, was a great honor, and was worthy of special remembrance. But his fame extended far beyond our limits. The speaker remembered an incident which occurred while he was on his return from Europe two or three years since. Dr. Brainard, himself an eminent medical authority, and the President of the Medical Institution at Chicago, was on board the same vessel, returning to deliver his fall lectures. In the course of conversation one day, Dr. Brainard referred to Dr. March, and expressed his surprise that so many should go to Paris for the instructions of her celebrated surgeons, while such a man as Dr. March lived in their own country. Dr. March, in his judgment, was as great and even superior to any surgeon of Paris. This was a voluntary tribute. It came from one who was in some sense a rival, and the head of a rival institution. The speaker confessed that it made him feel proud of being a citizen of Albany. We had, indeed, sustained a great loss, and he felt that it would be long before we met again on an occasion of such sincere and unfeigned sorrow.

Judge Peckham said:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens — A great and a good man has fallen in our city. One known to all, respected and beloved by all, has departed, never to return to us again. It seems, as it were, but yesterday that we greeted with peculiar satisfaction, the genial face and manly form of our departed friend, Dr. March, as he walked our streets in apparent health and vigor. We shall greet him here no more forever. How sad is the thought to us, who knew and loved him so well.

I said he was a great man. Greatness belongs to no peculiar department of life. It would seem singular that we should call the warrior great, who has been successful in destroying life, and yet withhold that dignity from one distinguished for his success in preserving life. Few, if any names stand higher as a surgeon in the civilized world than the name of Dr. March, of Albany.

Though born elsewhere, his long residence here, extending to nearly half a century, almost gave to this city the right to claim him as her son; and never did a city take greater pride in her offspring.

Nature designed him for a great man. She gave him a strong physical frame, equal to any fatigue, with great mental power, an earnest nature, and an iron will; and his persevering industry perfected what nature designed.

The peculiar characteristics of our friend were the earnestness and simplicity of his nature. His whole life was earnest — earnest and real in discharging the high duties he had assumed. It is truly said that he was in love with his profession. But the ardor of his nature made him in love with any work he assumed to discharge. Even his recreations were labors. He had a great love for agriculture; and upon his small farm where he frequently retired for recreation, no laborer, while he was there, ever worked with more energy than himself.

In his professional lectures, continued for many years to his medical classes, this earnestness gave a peculiar interest to his originality and learning.

He was simple in his tastes and in all his habits of life. He always had time for duties. He had neither time nor taste for superfluous ornamentation. There was nothing finical about him. Modesty and manliness were a part of his nature. In such a man, there was, as there could be, no moral obliquity. His integrity was high-toned. He could not degrade his manly nature by any mean or dishonest conduct. There was no belittling cunning in him — nothing that detracted from his mental or moral manhood.

The success that necessarily attended his eminence in his profession gave him early pecuniary independence, and he gave, in his public and private charities, with a munificent spirit. The world is wiser and happier that he lived in it.

He fulfilled his mission on earth and has gone to his rest. He, if any one, may look for the reception above: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

S. O. Shepard, Esq., said:

Mr. Chairman — Permit me to add a word of unstudied tribute to those which have already so justly and eloquently been uttered. It is eminently becoming that our citizens should thus assemble to commemorate the worth of one, over whom these words of eulogy have just been uttered. This very assemblage of citizens, of different professions, of different occupations, spontaneous as it is, is an eloquent tribute in itself, springing, as it does, from the *hearts* of the people, who were the friends, the neighbors, the companions, of our departed friend. It illustrates the worth and the character of the man, and the deep, strong hold which he maintained upon their love and their confidence.

For nearly one-half of a century has the busy brain of Dr. Alden March been pondering over the subtle intricacies of those curiously constructed frames, for the benefit of that common humanity with which he was so closely and so warmly identified. For nearly fifty years has that keen eye been peering anxiously and closely in among the hidden mysteries of our physical being, to discover, if possible, some new method of alleviating its miseries. For fifty

years has that fine ear, now dull in death, been earnestly listening to catch the faintest notes struck out by the hand of disease from some one of the thousand strings of this harp which is constructed with such wondrous cunning. For fifty years has that steady hand and arm, in which no longer the life pulse beats, guided with curious skill the relentless steel as it wound its tortuous way down, far down among the springs of life, where the variation of its edge by a hair's breadth would give death another victim, unmoved by the shriek of agony, unshaken by the doubtful questionings of those, who, almost his compeers in science, yet shrunk at the apparent audacity of the operation. Still and steadily the steel moved on, controlled by that daring hand, until success crowned the effort and disease was arrested. Well has he won, and worthily has he worn, the laurels which a discriminating profession has awarded.

Do we remember our friend as a citizen of this great Republic? We find him in this relation still exhibiting those elements and qualities which ever dignify our humanity. Patriotic, loyal, true-hearted and zealous, his services were ever ready, his hand ever open at the call.

Do we remember him as a citizen dwelling in our midst? He is ever found identifying himself with all of the best and truest interests of our citizens, aiding in every work of philanthropy, his heart ever throb-

bing in close sympathy with those among whom he had cast his lot; his name a household word in their homes, his presence bringing light and hope and joy into those households which disease had darkened.

Do we in later years remember him as a Christian man? Meekly did he take up and manfully did he bear the crosses which were laid in his pathway, and beautifully did he illustrate, in his pure and earnest life, the power which that faith which he professed exerted upon the inner man.

But he has gone to his rest, bequeathing, Mr. Chairman, to this city, the memory of his professional renown, the example of an unsullied life, the history of a life-work splendidly performed.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Shepard's remarks, the resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the Albany County Medical Society, held in the City Hospital, Friday, June 18th, 1869, the President, Dr. James L. Babcock, after calling the meeting to order, said:

Gentlemen — It devolves upon me to announce to you the death of Dr. Alden March. He died in this

city yesterday morning, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. David I. Boyd. We are convened to-day to express our sense of this bereavement; and it is meet for us, as members of that honorable profession which he loved and adorned, to mingle our tears with those of his relatives, and our demonstrations of respect and regard with the various associations to which he belonged; with the city of his residence, and with the public at large.

This is not the time to speak in detail of the distinguished deceased. Having practised his profession for almost half a century, he fell, full of years and full of honors, conceded to be one of the eminent physicians of the city, of the State, and of the Nation. His life was a success. He acquired wealth, attained professional eminence, high social position, and maintained an unblemished public and private character. As a surgeon he possessed a skill in diagnosis that led him to correct conclusions, and a firmness of will that made his hand the fit executive of his almost unerring judgment. "The blessings of those that were ready to perish" often fell upon him, whose consummate skill and devoted professional attention had given to them health and years of comfort and of usefulness.

In his domestic relations, those who knew him best loved him most; in his life as a citizen he won our respect and regard, and above all a life so successful, useful and honored is crowned with the promise of

Him whose word cannot fail, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

Dr. James McNaughton then said:

Mr. President — I have been requested to make a few remarks in connection with the mournful event which has called us together. My heart is too full to give utterance to what I feel on this solemn occasion. The death of such a man as Dr. March, our late associate and lamented friend, is no ordinary occurrence. Few men in this community would be more missed, and fewer still could be found, in the whole State, to fill his place, in the estimation and confidence of the citizens of Albany. I have known him long and intimately. I preceded him two or three years as a resident of Albany. He came here in 1820. We became early acquainted. In 1821, I was appointed Professor of Anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of this State, and he began a private course of lectures on Anatomy in this city the same year. A few years later he was appointed Professor of Anatomy at Castleton, Vermont.

We thus soon became, in some degree, competitors for students, and, in some sense, rival teachers. I did all I could for my school, he for his. We were both successful. I saw my class increase from 53 to 214. The Castleton School had a class of over 100. Both

schools were considered promising. There was room for both. But when it was proposed to establish a Medical College at Albany, and another at Geneva, the case became different. They could not all be supported adequately. I wanted very naturally to protect my own school, while my late colleague as naturally wished to get up a school at Albany. This made us for several years take opposite sides in medical politics.

But it affords me pleasure to state that this opposition of interests did not interrupt the personal relations between us. We were always on friendly terms. In 1840, I was invited to take the Professorship of the Practice of Physic in the Albany Medical College. Since then our relations have been intimate and cordial, and on occasions of sickness and severe suffering in my own person, I have experienced at his hands kindness and tenderness like that of a brother.

Many thought my lamented friend rough and unfeeling, but I knew him to be tender and gentle, and ever ready to relieve the distressed, without the prospect of fee or reward, when others, who affected greater sensibility, like the Levite "would pass on the other side." This is not a fit time or place to dwell on the merits of Dr. March as a surgeon or professor. His merits in both capacities are too well known to all present to need any eulogy from me. In all the relations of life he was esteemed and respected.

Dr. James P. Boyd then remarked as follows:

Mr. President—I cannot let this opportunity pass without adding my tribute to the memory of this good and great man who has left us forever. After what has already been said, and what the whole country knows, of his professional abilities, it will be wholly unnecessary for me to add a word.

I would merely hint at his private character, as an example worthy of imitation. Dr. March was a systematic man—he had a place for everything, and everything in its place. He never postponed until to-morrow what could be performed to-day. Often after a late return from professional engagements in the country, tired and weary, he would not retire to rest until all letters and communications received in his absence had been answered. He has often told me that it was his rule to answer all letters immediately on their receipt. He was an economical man. He never contracted a debt until he was prepared to meet it. His rule was to "owe no man anything." He was a benevolent man, not only in giving gratuitous services to the sick, but also in contributing liberally to the great benevolent objects of the day, but especially in giving support to the Gospel of his Saviour, not only in his own Church, but in also extending his charities to a perishing world.

If I may be allowed to lift the curtain which concealed his domestic relations, I would reveal the most beautiful, the most amiable traits of his character.

It was here the man — the father — the counsellor — the Christian — were brought out in one beautiful constellation.

No one who only saw Dr. March in the active scenes of life, or in the operating room, could realize the fine sensibilities of his nature, as developed in the bosom of his family.

But, the crowning glory of Dr. March's character, was his consistent Christianity. Always punctual and in his place, performing all the external duties pertaining to his Christian profession, both in the Church and in his family. But he is gone. The profession has lost one of its brightest ornaments, the Church a consistent Christian, the world a benefactor.

Dr. Barent P. Staats then addressed the meeting as follows:

Mr. President — We have assembled here on a mournful occasion. For the purpose of mourning the loss of an eminent brother, and for the purpose of paying respect to his memory. Did I say mourning? Yes it is true and proper that we should mourn on an occasion like this. If our Saviour could comfort Mary and her sister Martha, and weep at the grave of Lazarus whom he loved, we may certainly be permitted to weep for one we so dearly loved and respected. It has been my good fortune to have been intimate with our departed friend for more than

forty years, during which time I have always received from him the most friendly and kindest treatment.

Dr. MARCH was truly the architect of his own Temple of Fame, which temple is one that is not surpassed by any, and will prove a shining monument to the young who seek eminence. He had lived beyond the time allotted to man, yet like MOSES at his death, his "eye was not dim, neither was his natural force abated." There are but a few of us who commenced practice at the time when the Doctor commenced, and most of them, if not all, have already passed the time allotted to man; and do we not in this sudden and unexpected death, hear the injunction, "Be ye also ready."

Dr. JAMES MCNAUGHTON then offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, it hath pleased GOD to remove by death, our venerable and distinguished associate, ALDEN MARCH, for nearly half a century an ornament to our profession, and a blessing to the community in which he resided:

Resolved, That in his death, while we humbly submit to the decree of the Almighty, we are permitted to express our sorrow, that one so dear to us as an associate, friend and adviser, has been taken from us forever in this world.

Resolved, That in his life and character, as a skillful, devoted, and conscientious physician, and as an active, consistent Christian, he has left us an example worthy of our imitation.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect due to the memory of our deceased brother, this society will attend the funeral in a body, and invite other medical men to unite with us, using the customary badge of mourning on the left arm on that solemn occasion.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings, together with an assurance of our sympathy and condolence, be transmitted to the

family of the deceased, entered on our minutes, and published in such papers as our Secretary may direct.

Dr. S. O. VANDERPOOL then offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three members to select a proper person to prepare an oration on the life and services of Dr. ALDEN MARCH to be delivered at a fitting time before the Society and citizens of Albany.

The Society then adjourned.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, held on the evening of Thursday, June 17th, Mr. ANDREW E. BROWN was elected President *pro tem.* Dr. JAMES P. BOYD offered the following preamble and resolutions:

As Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, we are met under sad circumstances. He who has been associated with us in this Board so many years, and who has presided over its deliberations for twenty-three years is no more.

Dr. MARCH united with the First Presbyterian Church in this city in June, 1840, under the Pastorate of Rev. Dr. CAMPBELL. In 1841, he was elected a Trustee, and, in 1846, President of the Board of Trustees, which office he continued to hold for twenty-three years, until death severed the union.

Dr. MARCH was a sincere Christian, devoting himself conscientiously to the duties pertaining to his Christian profession. His seat in the church on the Sabbath, and in the prayer meeting during the week, was rarely vacant. In the financial affairs of the church, which have properly belonged to his office as Trustee, he took a deep interest, and managed the pecuniary affairs of the church with the same care and economy as if they were his own private property. When the edifice in which he lately worshipped was built, he was one of the most liberal contributors; and, indeed, the prosperity of this enterprise was very much advanced by his deep interest and untiring zeal, as well as by his contributions in money.

In the service of the sanctuary it was pleasing to see his deep earnestness and devotion, and especially in uniting his heart and voice with the church in the praise of his Heavenly Father.

But we shall hear his voice — we shall see his face no more. But what is our loss, we believe, is his infinite gain. We humbly believe that he has only left the service of the Church on Earth to join in the eternal praises of the Church in Heaven. Therefore,

Resolved, That we deeply feel the loss of our brother, whose place will be difficult to fill. We deeply sympathize with the church, from whom is taken one of its most efficient officers; and we mingle our tears and our sorrows with the bereaved, loving family who have lost their head — their affectionate father, their faithful counsellor, their spiritual guide.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the bereaved family, and published in the newspapers, signed by the President *pro tem.* and Clerk.

ANDREW E. BROWN, *President pro tem.*

HOWARD BOYD, *Clerk.*

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

A meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Medical College was convened on the 18th inst., to take action on the death of its venerable President, ALDEN MARCH, when the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, GOD in his infinite wisdom has removed by death, from this institution, its beloved and honored father and founder, Dr. ALDEN MARCH; therefore

Resolved, That, in this mournful dispensation, we recognize the wisdom and beneficence of the Almighty in permitting this great and good man to fill up the measure of his days in the full vigor of his mental and physical activity and usefulness.

Resolved, That this institution has suffered by his death an irreparable loss, and the cause of Medical Science one of its most able and successful promoters.

Resolved, That while we remember his life-long services and sacrifices, in preparing the way, building up and enriching this cherished institution, we deem it a fitting tribute to his memory that his place as Professor in the College shall remain vacant one year, and his branch of Science be taught by a lecturer selected *pro tem.*

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family and friends, to the members of that noble profession which the purity of his Christian life and the brilliancy of his scientific attainments have contributed so much to honor and adorn.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

IRA HARRIS, *President.*

GEORGE DEXTER, *Secretary.*

At a meeting of the Faculty of the Albany Medical College, held June 18th, 1869, the following

resolutions on the death of Dr. ALDEN MARCH were presented by Dr. QUACKENBUSH and adopted:

WHEREAS, it seemed good to an all-wise GOD, inserutable in His providence, but plenteous in His merey, to remove by death, our beloved President and friend, ALDEN MARCH, from the sphere of his usefulness; therefore

Resolved, That we lose in our Senior Assoeiate Professor — the founder of the Albany Medical College — a man of great intelligence and of praetical sense, of intense and persevering interest for the siek and needy, of eminent publie enterprise and benevolenee, and of ardent Christian eharaeter.

Resolved, That as a body, we look back with feelings of earnest love and respeet on his long, honorable and distinguished eareer as an able and skillful practitioner and teaeher of medieine and surgery.

Resolved, That we extend our most eordial sympathy to his bereaved family, and pray GOD to eomfort them with His sustaining graee.

Resolved, That we attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved. That a eopy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deeeased, and be published in the daily papers of this city.

JAS. MCNAUGHTON, *President pro tem.*

J. V. LANSING, *Secretary pro tem.*

At a meeting of the resident Students and Graduates of the Albany Medical College (class of '68,) held June 17th, 1869, the following tribute to the memory of Dr. ALDEN MARCH, the founder, chief support and President of the institution, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we honor the memory of him who was so suddenly strieken down in the midst of the well-earned rewards of his profession. With a deep sense of the loss we have sustained, we feel that, in eherishing his memory and example, we shall best honor him, and ennoble our lives and profession.

Resolved, That while we deeply feel this sad affliction, we are rejoieed to bear witness to his noble eharacter, his rigid discipline, his untiring perseverance, his sincere devotion to the eause of medical edueation, and his zeal and truthfulness in imparting information.

Resolved, That we tender to his family our most heartfelt sympathy.

Resolved, That a eopy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family.

W. G. TUCKER, *President*.

Wm. Hailes, Jr., *Secretary*.

ALBANY HOSPITAL.

A meeting of the Governors of the Albany Hospital was held on the 18th inst., to pay suitable respect to the memory of Dr. March, the senior surgeon of the hospital. The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death the venerable head of our Surgical Staff, Dr. Alden March; therefore

Resolved, That in his death this institution has lost one of the oldest, ablest and most effieient members of its staff, who, from its foundation, has labored, with untiring and self-sacrificing devotion, for the good of the Hospital and its suffering inmates.

Resolved, That while the profession and the publie have sustained an irreparable loss by his death, the sick and helpless poor have been deprived of their kindest and most faithful friend.

Resolved, That in extending our warmest sympathies to the relatives of the deceased, we remember the afflicted who have so long looked to him for comfort and relief.

Resolved, That as a token of our great respect for his memory, his place as surgeon shall remain vacant for one year; and that a portrait of the deceased be placed in the lecture room of the Hospital, with the usual mourning drapery.

Resolved, That we will attend his funeral in a body, and that a copy of these resolutions be entered on the minutes of the Hospital, and furnished to the family of the deceased, and to the daily newspapers.

T. W. OLCOTT, *President*.

STEPHEN GROESBECK, *Secretary*.

CITY TRACT AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the Managers of the Albany City Tract and Missionary Society, held on the 18th inst., to take action on the death of Dr. ALDEN MARCH, a committee, consisting of WILLIAM GOULD, R. H. WELLS and GEORGE W. CARPENTER, Jr., was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Board. They reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we have heard with feelings of sorrow and regret of the death of our esteemed friend, Dr. ALDEN MARCH, for many years President of this Society, and at his death one of its Vice-presidents.

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. MARCH this Society has lost a faithful, zealous friend, and this city, so long his home, an upright

citizen, who was not only eminent in his profession, but whose life was devoted to the advancement of every enterprise for the promotion of religion and morality in our midst.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Board, and a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

R. H. WELLS, *President.*

GEO. W. CARPENTER, JR., *Secretary.*

DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Dudley Observatory, held June 18th, 1869, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, the great Architect and Ruler of the Heavens has seen fit in His wisdom to remove by death one of our number, Dr. ALDEN MARCH; therefore

Resolved, That we feel deeply the loss of that wise counsel and firm support which has been so constantly given to this institution of science, from its inception through all its struggles, and which has contributed so much to its success and usefulness.

Resolved, That the cause of science has lost by the death of Dr. MARCH one of its ablest promoters and most devoted and faithful students.

Resolved, That while we tender our heartfelt sympathy to his sorrowing family, we call to mind the virtues of his Christian character, and his constant recognition of the wisdom, power and goodness of GOD in all the works of His creation.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the papers of the city, and furnished to the family of the deceased.

T. W. OLCOTT, *President.*

J. H. ARMSBY, *Secretary.*

MECHANICS' AND FARMERS' BANK.

At a special meeting of the Directors of the Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank, held June 18th, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, In the death of the venerable Dr. MARCH, the Directors of this Bank have lost an esteemed associate and valued friend, and our Cashier is requested to convey to the family of the deceased the assurance of our warmest sympathies in this afflictive dispensation; and that he cause these proceedings to be published in the city papers, as a feeble tribute to exalted worth.

DUDLEY OLCOTT, *Cashier.*

RURAL CEMETERY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Rural Cemetery the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, an allwise GOD, in His over-ruling Providence, has removed by death one of our number, Dr. ALDEN MARCH, whose efficiency and good taste have contributed so much to improve and adorn the beautiful home of our dead; therefore,

Resolved, That in his death the Albany Rural Cemetery has lost one of its earliest and most persistent supporters.

Resolved, That while we sympathize with his bereaved relatives, we rejoice that his honored remains are to repose in that beautiful spot which his own hands have prepared and embellished.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the family of the deceased, and published in the papers of the city.

THOMAS W. OLCOTT, *President.*

C. VAN BENTHUYSEN, *Secretary.*

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Young Mens' Christian Association, held at their rooms on Monday evening, June 21st, 1869, the following tribute of respect was ordered entered on their minutes:

WHEREAS, we have heard with profound sorrow of the death of the eminent physician and surgeon, the sincere Christian, the upright and public spirited citizen, Dr. ALDEN MARCH, a life member of this Association, and its firm friend from its organization; therefore

Resolved, That we appreciate the great loss the community at large has sustained in the death of this useful citizen and devoted Christian, and also, as one of the friends of this Association; and that we shall ever cherish with grateful remembrance, the kind feelings and generous support he ever extended toward it, and find therein an example worthy of our emulation.

Resolved, That to the family of the deceased we tender our sincere sympathy, and pray that the "Great Physician" will heal the wounds inflicted by the last enemy, death, and sanctify to all this Providence.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family, and published in the daily papers of the city.

JAMES DUNCAN,
J. HAMPDEN WOOD,
D. G. STALEY,
Committee.

FUNERAL OF DR. MARCH.

The funeral of the late Dr. Alden March occurred at the First Presbyterian Church yesterday afternoon, and was of the most impressive character. Long before the hour named, half-past three o'clock, a great number of citizens had assembled. It was undoubtedly the largest funeral which ever took place in this city. Twice or thrice the number that could possibly be accommodated in the church gathered about it. All classes of citizens were represented, and the presence of many of the poorer orders was particularly noticeable — a signal testimony to the kindness and humanity with which Dr. March responded to all calls upon his professional skill.

Many persons were in attendance from remote parts of the State. We may mention one case that has come to our knowledge. A lady living out of town, upon whose husband Dr. March had performed a delicate operation within the past year, presented herself at the residence where his remains reposed, saying she felt so grateful to him that she had come to see his face before he was buried, and to attend his funeral. And this was one of several instances.

The members of the medical profession attended the funeral in a body, and among them especially

were many from other parts of the State. The Trustees and officers of the First Presbyterian Church, the Governors of the City Hospital, the Directors of the Medical College, Rural Cemetery and Observatory, and the Students of the Medical College also attended in bodies.

At the residence of David I. Boyd, Esq., son-in-law of Dr. March, where the remains reposed, a prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Ludlow, and the remains were then conveyed to the Church, accompanied by the relatives, by Drs. James McNaughton and Boyd, the attending physicians, by the officiating clergymen and the following pall-bearers: Hon. Ira Harris, Thos. W. Olcott, Ezra P. Prentice, Wm. H. De Witt, Henry Newman, Frederick J. Barnard, Wm. Mitchell and Andrew E. Brown. The coffin was an elegant rosewood casket trimmed inside and outside in the richest style, solid and plain, with heavy silver plate, the other trimmings being rich ebony, with black handles.

The pulpit was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Blaney, at present officiating in the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Sprague, Rev. Dr. Halley, and Rev. Dr. Wines, of New York. The exercises were begun with the reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Blaney, after which Dr. Halley offered an impressive and appropriate prayer. The hymn, "Rock of Ages," was sung, and Dr. Sprague followed in an admirable and appreciative discourse on the deceased

He said that we were in the habit of speaking of the silence of death, but that in reality nothing was more eloquent in its instructions. He then spoke of Dr. March as he had been, as the faithful husband and the devoted father, as an earnest member of the Church, and as the eminent surgeon; following this with a reference to what he was now as a partaker in the immortal joys of the higher realm. Next he traced the causes, speaking of the physical constitution, the mental activity and temperament, the history and surroundings which had molded his life, and finally of his crowning glory, that of being a devout Christian. He closed by drawing the lessons which the life and death of the departed conveyed, especially to the relatives and the medical profession. The whole discourse was a just tribute to the deceased, and a fitting comment upon the suggestions of the occasion.

Upon its conclusion Dr. Wines offered a prayer, after which the hymn beginning "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" was sung. This hymn, a favorite of the wife of Dr. March, was sung at her funeral, and by his own request was sung at his. It was by his request, also, that the "Rock of Ages" was sung. After the remains had been viewed by the large number of citizens in attendance, they were conveyed to the Cemetery, accompanied by many friends.

ROCK OF AGES.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me!
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side that flowed,
Be of sin the perfect cure;
Save me LORD and make me pure.

Should my tears forever flow,
Should my zeal no langour know,
This for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and Thou alone;
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me!
Let me hide myself in Thee.

APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE ANNUAL ADDRESS* DELIVERED BEFORE THE ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1869, BY ITS PRESIDENT.

JAMES. L. BABCOCK, M. D.

His Professional Life.

Dr. March had for many years an extensive practice as a physician, in all its departments, but his success in surgery compelled him to make surgery his specialty. Dr. March was singularly correct in diagnosis. In his examination of patients, his eye, his touch, his judgment, illustrated his accuracy and consummate skill. He was quick to perceive, and to meet any emergency or complication. He never seemed to be undecided as to what was to be done, or how to do it. His inventive genius was ever at his command, and with promptness and efficiency he met the various exigencies of his many, many cases. In controlling his own feelings he commanded others; the operation performed, the determined surgeon at once became the kind and devoted physician. As an

* From the Trans. of the N. Y. State Medical Society.

operator he was quick, dextrous, cautious, bold and successful. His professional eminence among his brethren, and the public at large, was due to him, and was most cheerfully awarded. In his later years, none in northern and western New York, as a surgeon, equaled him; none in the southern, or the nation, surpassed him.

We find no record of the surgical operations performed by Dr. March during ten years of his professional life. Yet those of which we have a record number seven thousand one hundred and twenty-four (7,124). A partial synopsis of his operations is as follows:

He amputated three hundred and thirteen times; of which sixty-five were through the thigh; thirty-six through the leg; seven through the tarsus; twenty-five through the arm; eighteen through the fore-arm; and two through the wrist.

He reduced three hundred and nine dislocations. Many of them of an unusual character. Of which seven were of the inferior maxillary or lower jaw; one hundred and thirty-six of the shoulder; seventy-five of the elbow; twenty of the wrist; seventeen of the hip-joint; four of the knee; one of the patella; ten of the ankle; and twelve of the astragalus and tarsus.

His cases of fractures number ten hundred and fourteen. Many of which were uncommon; indeed, to such he was constantly called. Of these, nineteen were of the cranium; six of the scapula; one hundred and eleven of the arm; eighty-three of the fore-arm, both bones; two hundred and nine of the radius; twenty-two of the ulna; eleven of the olecranon

process; nine of the ribs; one of the sternum; one hundred and thirty-three of the femur; sixteen of the patella; one hundred and thirty-three, both bones, of the leg; twenty-nine of the tibia; and nineteen of the fibula.

He operated for non-union of bones twenty-six times; for resection fifteen times; of which eleven were of the lower jaw; for anchylosis of joints five times. He extirpated one thousand six hundred and sixty-two tumors, of every diversity of character and situation. Of this number, twenty-eight were osseous; two cartilaginous; one muscular; twenty-one bursal; four hundred and ninety-one malignant; four hundred and ninety-two encysted. He operated for strangulated hernia one hundred and four times. Of which, for umbilial five times; direct and oblique inguinal fifty-three times; femoral forty-six times. He performed the operation of lithotomy forty-seven times; ovariotomy seven times; neurotomy seventeen times; hydrocele, temporary relief, three hundred and forty-seven times; for radical cure, one hundred and eighteen times; for paracentesis cranii, three times; thoracis, eleven times; abdominis, seventy-seven times; hydrops articuli, twelve times; fistulæ, in various situations, one hundred and seventy-nine times. Removed polypi, in various localities, one hundred and forty-five times. He operated for hare-lip one hundred and twenty-five times. Of which, about fifty were double, with double cleft in jaw; staphyloraphy, nine times; talicotian or rhinoplastic operation, twelve times; autoplastic, six times; excision of the tonsils and uvulæ, five hundred and forty-nine times; for goitre, once; laryngotomy and trachetomy, seven times. Removed foreign bodies

from the air passages, fifty-three times; extirpation of the eye, ten times. Operated for cataract, one hundred and twenty-nine times; strabismus, two hundred and forty-nine times; pterygium, eighteen times; myotomy and tenotomy, two hundred and eighty-eight times; ligated arteries, forty-three times; of which the profunda, external iliac and common carotid were included; aneurism of the larger arteries, seven times; spina bifida, five times; spina ventosa, three times. He performed anomalous operations for the cure of deformities fifty times. While a full narration would not, at this time, be appropriate, yet it is deemed appropriate to speak of the following:

In 1820, he performed his first operation, which was for hare-lip. In a communication on clinical surgery, in 1854, he says: "In less than three weeks after receiving my diploma I operated on the infant of Mr. H., of White Creek, Washington county, N. Y., then about three weeks old, for relief of a tolerably fair case of hare-lip. All the surgical instruments I then possessed was a dissecting case, the knives of which were pretty well worn by eight months of almost constant dissection, while pursuing my professional instruction in Boston. I procured some common choppel sharp sewing needles, such as I had seen used by my preceptor, a kind brother, and who was surgeon's mate in the war of 1812, and with the aid of an ordinary pocket knife, which it is the custom of 'the Yankee to use on various occasions,' I whittled, out of soft pine wood, a thin spatula, which was used to support the lip, while the borders of the fissure were excised upon it with the scalpel. With preparation so simple and imperfect, I resolved to

make my *debut* in operative surgery, greatly to the fears, and almost under the protest, of my good old sainted mother, who lived until 1848, long enough to have all her doubts and fears, as to my success in this and other important and difficult surgical operations, fully settled." He further says, "I need not describe the steps of the operation, nor say that the excitement of the responsibility of what was then regarded as a bold operation, caused huge drops of perspiration to bedew my flushed face. Suffice it to say, that I thought I had 'put it up' about right. Every thing went on pretty well until the third or fourth day, about the time for the removal of the needles, when the little patient was attacked with the infants' apthæ, or sore mouth, which resulted in destroying the adhesions in less than one week, when the sides of the fissure were as far asunder as before the operation. I satisfied the parents of the cause of failure, and not doubting myself of ultimate success determined to try again; and that I might be better prepared for a second endeavor, I visited Albany, procured a work on surgery, a set of silver hare-lip suture pins, and under my directions a common blacksmith manufactured the forceps. The second operation was performed when the child was between two and three months old, and was completely successful." In speaking of the cause of failure in the first operation, he says: "Besides the sore mouth, I think there must have been another or other reasons of failure, such as are apt to prevail with most young operators — a fear of cutting away too much of the border of the fissure, and the neglect to insert the sutures, whether pins or thread, at a proper distance

from the border of the cut margins, and of failing to make them penetrate nearly through the entire thickness of the lip."

Mr. A., a farmer, aged about thirty years, had a tumor occupying the left side of the neck, as large as a pint bowl, egg-shaped, extending superiorly to the lobe of the ear, and inferiorly nearly to the clavicle. Speaking of this case, he says: "It is conceived that a faithful account of the history, operation, and result of this case will be rendering a public service, although the operation proved unsuccessful, and therefore in the minds of the illiberal, might reflect on the character of the operators. In my opinion, unsuccessful operations are often as highly important on the score of experience, not only to the individuals concerned, but to the medical profession at large, as are those, that are crowned with the most triumphant success. Though unfortunately, for the improvement of surgery, the reports of such cases, are too often kept from the public eye; either from fear of censure, or loss of professional reputation. But in this instance, if we suffer from either source, we shall feel ourselves in part compensated, and more than acquitted from unjust charges, at least, when we shall have faithfully and honestly discharged this duty, which the public, and more especially the medical profession, seem to claim at our hands." After describing the various steps of the operation, he says: "While dissecting at the lower part of the tumor, the knife came in contact with the external jugular vein, very near the point where it unites with the internal jugular. The moment this happened, a phenomenon followed that seemed to startle all pres-

ent. It was the noise of a strange rushing of air, as though the trachea or cavity of the thorax had been cut into, that seemed to foretell the result of the operation. The noise that followed the wounding of the vein, was compared to that produced by turning liquid from a junk bottle. The patient was instantly seized with tremors and convulsions; was pulseless; lips became livid, frothed at the mouth, and the pupils of the eyes dilated to the greatest possible extent. The moment the source of the difficulty was discovered, the finger of an assistant was placed upon the mouth of the wounded vein, and there held, while the operation was suspended for a few moments, and in the mean time the patient was partially aroused by the use of diffusible stimuli. The operation was resumed, and in the course of ten or twelve minutes completed. And within five, or ten minutes, at farthest, the patient breathed his last without a struggle." He continues: "Soon after the occurrence of this disastrous case, we lost no time in searching all the works on surgery, and such periodicals as came within our reach, to find a parallel case, or any circumstances that would lead a surgeon to be cautious how he opened veins in the immediate vicinity of the heart. And with all diligence we discovered but one of a similar nature, and in which the operation was followed by a similar result. It was a case that occurred, and was reported by M. Dupuytren. Had Dupuytren's case, together with some rules to be observed, in order to avoid the occurrence of such accidents, in performing operations about the neck, been embodied in our standard works on surgery, it is very probable we might have

saved the life of our patient. At all events, I think we should have been saved the sore mortification of seeing him expire upon the operating table. In order to give a satisfactory explanation of the phenomena that followed the wounding of the vein, it required considerable research in the science of physiology. One thing, however, appears certain, that death was the result of the introduction of air into the cavity of the heart." He says: "I came to this conclusion not only from the experience I had in the fatal case here related, but from an experiment which I tried on a cat. The jugular vein of a cat was exposed and laid open, a blow pipe introduced, and with one puff of the breath, the cat was thrown into convulsions, and within three minutes was dead. On dissection we found the right side of the heart, and the large veins, filled with air, which was the cause of death. This report was copied into Cooper's Surgical Dictionary of Practical Surgery of 1830, pages 509 and 510. Under the head of Tumors, the following is there added: "A highly interesting case of tumor in the neck, in which the operation for its removal was performed by Professor Alden March, of Albany, N. Y. And although this operation was unsuccessful, yet the cause of its failure was apparent, and ought to be known to the profession, that it may be avoided in future surgical wounds in which the neck is to be involved. This operation was performed in August, 1829, and the patient died upon the table from the introduction of air into the cavity of the heart through the external jugular vein." He says, "Dr. March's experiments on this subject may be of the highest practical importance, and the explanation

of the remarkable phenomena, which followed the wounding of a vein, in this and other cases, is a physiological problem, the solution of which, if accomplished, will be of the deepest interest to the profession, and to humanity." This report was also copied into Gibson's Surgery, vol. 2, pp. 441 and 442, in connection with operations on varicose veins, which says, "In performing operations upon veins, the surgeon should be aware of the danger of air entering their cavities. Several interesting cases have been reported by DUPUYTREN, Sir ASTLEY COOPER, ROUX, WARREN, MOTT and STEPHENS, of death from this cause, or of the patient being saved by pressure on the orifice in the vein, or by the timely operation of encircling it with a ligature. The most interesting case of all, however, is that reported by Professor MARCH, of Albany, the candid relation of which does him great credit." I have selected his first case of surgery, and successful operation, and his first case of unsuccessful, aware that these two cases illustrate the man and the surgeon. He was ever anxious to present the facts and the truth, whether the result was favorable or unfavorable. He seemed to forget himself in his great anxiety to advance the cause of science; and in the latter case, in the solemn consciousness that he had done his duty, he stated the result of a professional effort, relying upon the intelligence of his professional brethren, who, with all the facts of the case before them, would feel he deserved success, could it have been attained.

In the Transactions of the American Medical Association of 1853, on pages 505 and 506, we find, in

connection with his essay on morbus-coxarius, mention of an invention designed by him, to fill a very important indication in the treatment of this disease. In speaking of this improvement, he remarks: "The structure of the splint is designed to obviate all pressure on the trochanter-major." "The treatment of hip-disease by the use of the long splint, I believe, was first suggested and employed by our late distinguished countryman, Dr. PHYSICK, of Philadelphia. The only object he had in view, was to secure rest and perfect immobility of the joint."

In the Transactions of the New York State Medical Society of 1855, page 126, we find an essay by Dr. MARCH, on improved forceps for hare-lip operation. He says: "To prevent the notch that is so apt to follow the old method, of operating by straight incisions, two plans have been adopted, one with a semi-circular cut, from top to bottom, and the other with straight lines, from the top, to the upper border of the red part of the lip, and from thence toward the fissure, at an angle of about forty-five degrees." The instrument I have caused to be constructed, is designed to combine the semi-circular line of the Edinburgh surgeon and angular line of MALGAIGNE. It says, "by the aid of this instrument, the lip can be securely held, while its shape affords a sure guide in making the line of incision in such a way as shall secure all the advantages of both, a semi-circular and angular border."

Dr. BRYAN, Professor of Surgery in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, in speaking of Prof. MARCH'S essay on improved forceps for hair-lip operation, says: "It embodied so much that is valuable, that we think

this production of one of the most distinguished surgeons of New York, ought to be made to assume a permanent form, and be embodied in the standard works."

In 1860, Dr. March also invented instruments for the removal of dead bone; and in 1867, employed a new method for removing urinary calculi. This is not the place to speak of the importance of these inventions, or even describe them in detail; it is enough for me to bring them to your notice at this time, feeling that every distinguished surgeon in this audience, as well as elsewhere, is aware of the importance of these inventions to the profession.

As a lecturer, Dr. March was practical, clear and forcible; always commanding the respect and attention of his Class; and from his vast field of experience, he was enabled to give such instruction as was well calculated to make practical physicians and surgeons. He delivered ten courses of lectures on Anatomy and Physiology, in the Vermont Academy of Medicine; thirty-six courses of lectures on Surgery, in the Albany Medical College, and seventeen private courses of lectures on Anatomy, Physiology and Operative Surgery, in Albany.

MEMBERSHIP OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES AND SOME OF THE OFFICES HELD BY HIM.

1832 and 1833. President of the Albany County Medical Society.

1857. President of the New York State Medical Society.

1864. President of the American Medical Association, and one of its founders.

Honorary Member of the Massachusetts State Medical Society; Pennsylvania State Medical Society; Connecticut State Medical Society; Rhode Island State Medical Society.

1861. He was Chairman of the commission appointed to examine candidates for the Volunteer service of the State of New York. There were two hundred and forty-three candidates, a large portion being graduates of the Albany Medical College.

1862 and 1863. Member of the Auxiliary Corps of Volunteer Surgeons of this State.

1841. Corresponding Member of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science, at Washington, D. C.

Member of the Young Men's Association of this city; member of the Young Men's Christian Association; President Board of Trustees First Presbyterian Church; President Albany City Tract and Missionary Society; trustee of the Albany Medical College; trustee of the Dudley Observatory; trustee Albany Rural Cemetery; trustee Albany University.

The degree of LL. D. was conferred on him by William's College, in 1868.

1869. Hon. Mem. of the "Institut des Archivistes de France."

In these societies he took deep interest, especially those connected with his profession, of which he was an active member and labored with earnest devotion for the promotion and spread of medical science. Their honors were freely awarded him without his seeking to acquire distinction.

We are indebted to him for a series of most valuable papers. The following are some of them:

1821. Essay upon Dissection of the human body.

1822. Essay upon establishing a Medical College and Hospital in this City.

1823. Essay on the best Method to be pursued in the Study of Medical Science.

1829. Essay on reporting Unsuccessful as well as Successful Cases.

1829. Report of a Complicated Obstetrical Case.

1829. Report of an Unsuccessful Operation, and Experiments on animals.

1830. Essay or lecture on the Expediency of Establishing a Medical College and Hospital in this City.

1830. A Plea for Establishing a Medical Journal in this City.

1831. Essay on the Establishment of an Asylum for the Insane in this City.

1831. Report on some of the Defects in the Hospital Department of the Albany County Alms-house.

1832. Report on the Sanitary Condition of this City in reference to the Epidemic Cholera, and suggestions for the establishment of Temporary Hospitals.

1833. Address before the Albany County Medical Society. Subject: The Epidemic Cholera.

1834. His second address before the Albany County Medical Society. Subject: Surgical Cases, and reports of some of his more important Surgical Operations.

1847. Essay on Prosecutions for Mal-practice.

1847. Essay on Frequent Meetings of Medical Societies.

1849. Report of a Successful Operation for Ovariotomy.

1849. Description of MALGAIGNE'S instrument for maintaining apposition in those oblique fractures of the Tibia, in which the superior fragment obstinately tends to overlap the inferior, which was published in the Transactions of the A. M. A.

1852. Reply to Dr. SAMUEL JACKSON, of Northumberland, Penn., on the proposed re-organization of the American Medical Association.

1852. Report of an operation for Lithotomy.

1852. Paper on Strangulated Hernia and Reducible. Published in the Western Lancet.

1853. An Essay on Morbus Coxarius, or Hip-disease, and report of his investigations. Published in Trans. A. M. A.

1853. Report of a case of Backward Dislocation of the Astragalus.

1854. Paper on Penetrating Wounds of the Abdomen with Punctured Wounds of the Intestines. Penetrating Wounds of the Larynx, and their treatment, with cases for illustration, and their Medico-legal aspect. 1854. Report of an Operation for Extirpation of Tumor from the Neck.

1854. Essay on Clinical Surgery.

1855. Essay on Improved Forceps for Hare-lip operation.

1856. Essay on Four Months in Europe.

1856. Essay on Encysted Osseous Tumors.

1857. Semi-centennial address before N. Y. S. Medical Society.

1858. Essay on an interesting case of Urinary Calculi.

1858. Essay on Intra Capsular Fracture of the Cervix Femoris, with bony union.

1859. Essay on Ectopia A Cordis.

1861. Report of a case of Compound Comminuted and Complicated Fracture of the upper part of Tibia.

1861. Report on Medical Education.

1861. Biographical sketch of Prof. LEWIS C. BECK, M. D.

1863. Essay on Prof. NELATON'S Probe for Gunshot Wounds in Bones.

1864. Address before American Medical Association.

1867. Essay on an unusual place of lodgment and exit of Biliary Calculus.

1867. Essay on the Relations of the Periosteum to Osteogenesis.

1867. Essay on New Method employed in removing Urinary Calculi.

1868. Essay on Scirrhus, or Malignant Disease of the Rectum, and report of the successful operation for its removal.

1869. Report of a Case of Spontaneous Lithotomy.

Nearly all these essays and reports were read by him before the New York State Medical Society, and published in the Transactions. Allow me to call your attention briefly to two of these essays. First, Intra Capsular Fracture of Cervix Femoris with Bony Union. After submitting his views and exhibiting his Pathological specimens and their history with reference to this character of fracture, he says: "I shall advocate the doctrine of *complete fracture within the capsular ligament*, and *union by ossific deposit without impaction.* I wish the profession to examine the specimens accurately and minutely in every respect. I am content to submit the whole subject to the decision of competent judges to decide whether the facts are not sufficiently numerous, clear and convincing to warrant the conclusion at which I have arrived." * * * * * * *

In 1841, 1848 and 1856, Dr. MARCH visited Europe, not only to perfect himself in his profession, but also

to investigate, critically, that grave malady, morbus coxarius, or hip disease. He says, "for many years I have looked upon the writings of Sir Astley Cooper as the most reliable of any in the English language. He was my oracle. Nevertheless, with all this rare combination of a variety of talents, it is possible that even a great and good man may be mistaken. The views which I am about to present concerning the pathological condition of the hip-joint when occupied by the affection commonly called 'hip disease' and its treatment, I am fully aware, will differ widely from the commonly expressed opinion of almost all surgical writers and teachers. Nearly every surgical author *assumes* that *spontaneous dislocation* of the hip is not unfrequently the result of *absorption*, *ulceration* or *destruction* of the ligaments of the joint and of the acetabulum, and of contraction of the muscles surrounding the joint.

"I shall take the position that *spontaneous dislocation into* of the *hip* (as purely the result of morbid action, unaided by superadded violence) seldom or never takes place; I also propose to point out a mode of treatment by which *progressive absorption* of the acetabulum and head of the bone may be arrested before the life of the patient is endangered by the progress of the disease. If it should be asked upon what ground I found the proof and argument to sustain my doctrine, and why I dare oppose the weight of the highest surgical authority on this subject, I will answer that my convictions are based upon actual observation and personal examination of about forty pathological museums in this country and in Europe, and of the examination of the bony specimens of the

hip-joint of some of those who had evidently died while laboring under a severe form of the disease." He continues, "I made it my business to examine critically every morbid specimen of the hip-joint, and with paper and pencil in hand, made a record on the spot of the number of the specimens and classified them according to the nature of their respective organic changes. I have had an opportunity of personally examining about two hundred specimens of what I took to be hip-disease, and as I learned to be such, and arrived at the following conclusion, that *ulcerative absorption produced the change in the articulation* of the *joint* which was *too often called dislocation.* If my views are sustained by facts; if the theory of practice upon the plan of *permanent extension* becomes an *established principle* in the treatment of hip disease in an advanced stage, or even before any great organic change has taken place in the joint, I shall have accomplished my object; and I trust have contributed a trifle to the advancement of surgical science." In these two essays the views entertained by Dr. March, were at variance with the received opinions of the profession, not only of this country but of Europe. The ideas he advanced produced much discussion; but his clear and logical arguments, with the facts presented and the pathological specimens for his proof, his deductions could not be easily overthrown. Some members of our profession forgetting how much they are indebted to the experience of others, neglect to contribute their discoveries in medical science. While not intending to be illiberal, they fail to perform their duty in this respect. Dr. March did not belong to this class. Three ideas

seem to have always been prominent and inseparable in his mind. The welfare of his patients, his own scientific growth, and the elevation of his profession. As the two former led him to profound thought and thorough investigation, the latter induced him to communicate to others the results of his experience when novel or peculiar. The exhausting labor of an extensive practice did not deter him from this duty. He accomplished his mission by a systematic arrangement of his duties, and the punctual performance of them. Conspicuous rather as a practical surgeon than as a writer, Dr. March did not receive the extensive recognition of his eminent ability. Could a sufficient portion of his time have been devoted to embodying, in a surgical treatise, the ripe knowledge of his thorough study and experience, that work would have commanded the respect of scientific men even beyond the limits of our own country. We can not but regret he has not left us such a legacy.

A PAPER

READ AT A MEETING OF THE ELMIRA ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 3, 1869,

By WILLIAM C. WEY, M. D.,

In memory of my revered and honored teacher, under whose guidance for more than three years I pursued the study of my profession, I propose to devote the time allotted me this evening,* in reviewing his professional and individual character, which for so great a number of years made him a marked and conspicuous man in the councils of our art in the State and Nation.

ALDEN MARCH was born in Sutton, Worcester county, Mass., in 1795. His father, an humble farmer, followed his calling under the adverse and necessitous circumstances which attend the care of a large family. Agriculture, as practiced at that day, in an obscure and rough portion of Massachusetts, was simply the act of wresting from the soil, by the most vigorous manual labor, unaided by the helps of inventive genius, the scanty products which were required for the immediate and pressing wants of the farmer's family. To cultivate a small farm was merely to subsist upon "the fruits thereof," and this, too, in the primitive and economical manner common among

*At the previous meeting in July, Dr. WEY was appointed by the President of the Academy, to read an essay.

the New Englanders of the past century. Such had been the boyhood of Webster, of Cass, and a host of equally distinguished Americans; and I may add that a special charm attaches to a like origin, which is subsequently ennobled by a life of exalted position and usefulness.

From his earliest years accustomed to toil and labor, Dr. March followed the plough, and performed all the drudgery incident to the position in which he was born. An early life more uneventful than his can scarcely be imagined. The stock to which he belonged, however, possessed no fellowship with ignorance, and he was allowed the advantages of the school of the neighborhood, especially during the winter months, when he could be most easily spared from the labors of the farm. The amount of knowledge thus acquired was doubtless the chief inheritance which the Doctor derived from his father, whose slender resources prevented a more generous bestowal of fortune. The result showed that it proved, in the hands of the son, a possession of greater significance and worth, than estates, honors and titles. Limited as his advantages proved, they were doubtless eagerly appreciated and zealously prosecuted, and it did not require a long period to exhaust them. Education as then prescribed in the common country schools, embraced reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and perhaps grammar. Beyond this the pupil could not go, for the reason that the teacher could not lead, even if the former had been disposed to follow. Books were scarce, time was limited, the necessities of the country did not demand a high order of intellectual progress, and the circumstances of the people did not warrant it.

An elder brother had many years before become a physician, and practiced his profession in his native State.

Thus the early years of the subject of this notice were passed, in severe labor, in study and in such general reading as chanced to fall in his way. As he approached manhood he taught school in many country towns. At the same time he began and continued his medical studies under the direction of his brother. The force and energy of his character proved of early development; and the many hindrances which interposed to check his progress, only served to renew and multiply his vigor and resources, as one after another he overcame them all, and strode manfully on towards the accomplishment of his earnest hopes and anticipations. He had set out with the determination to master a profession, and never, for an instant, did the consciousness of his inherent strength and ability to succeed, desert him. He attended lectures in Boston, and from a remark which fell from his lips in conversation, during the session of the American Medical Association in that city in 1865, he doubtless rendered such service to the professor of Anatomy, in procuring subjects for dissection, as in part, if not fully, to defray the expenses of his lecture course. His success in that dangerous field of service, indicated the fearlessness of his character, and the earnestness, amounting to enthusiasm, with which he sought to accomplish the objects of his ambition. And it must be acknowledged, in surveying the life of Dr. March, that he was guided and governed, from the very beginning of his medical pupilage, by an honest and laudable ambition. Ambition furnished an incentive to study, to

investigate, to explore, to originate, to strike out in new and untrodden fields, and relying entirely upon his conscious strength and knowledge, first as an innovator, contemptuously considered, next as an instructor, with scanty patronage and support, next as a general surgeon, incurring the hostility of the profession, and finally as a masterly teacher, a brilliant and successful operator, a bold, independent and fearless man, he won the confidence and patronage, not only of his colleagues, but of an immense representation of people, which continued, with increased manifestation, to the very day of his death.

Dr. March's final course of lectures, which resulted in the degree of Doctor of Medicine, was attended at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, which at this time embraced a Medical Department.

He commenced practice in Albany, in 1820. Here we first notice him as an *innovator*. He brought the zeal and industry of his student life to bear upon his first years of practice, and immediately, upon opening an office, began the study and teaching of anatomy, with dissections and lectures upon the human subject. A small number of patrons gave him encouragement, composed of students of medicine, and a few bold as well as curious men of his acquaintance. The profession, regarding him as an adventurer, refused even to recognize, much less to encourage him. His utter failure and discomfiture was predicted, and his removal from the city was anticipated at an early day. So fierce became the opposition to Dr. March, and so successful, under the bond of combination, that the prediction of his opponents seemed about to be realized, and because of the threatened failure of his scheme

to teach practical anatomy, and his equally signal failure to secure patronage among the citizens, in a moment of chagrin and disappointment, he intimated to the gentleman from whom he leased his office, the noble-minded Mr. Evarts, a highly successful merchant of Albany, that it was his purpose to take up his residence in the neighboring town of Schenectady. With an insight respecting character which long experience in business had imparted, Mr. Evarts fully appreciated the sterling worth of his tenant, and strove to dissuade him from his intention. The Doctor was in arrears for rent, and without present or prospective means to discharge his obligations to his landlord. The latter delicately suggested that the Doctor should not, in a moment of depression, yield to the adverse tide against which he was struggling, but with renewed strength, contend with and overcome the opposition which met him at every turn. If Mr. Evarts did not release the Doctor from indebtedness for rent, he made the terms of payment so easy that the obligation rested lightly upon the young surgeon, who concluded to abide the course of events in giving him patronage, support and position in the substantial and conservative city of Albany.

This event, simple as it appears, was doubtless the turning point in the history and career of Dr. March. A few words of encouragement, sealed by a noble and generous act, on the part of a citizen of character and influence, whose sympathies were drawn out towards a deserving young man, proved the means of changing the destiny of his life. He gradually grew in favor with the people, overcame the opposition of the profession, and at last rose to be regarded as a

surgeon of skill and character. This position was not achieved through favor or compromise. Dr. March won his reputation, first at home among his early opponents, and afterwards more extensively through the State and Nation, simply by his great merit as a surgeon. The anatomical foundation upon which he built during all his early pupilage and wearisome and discouraging waiting in Albany, served as a fitting base to sustain the monument which rose to such majestic proportions, as the full measure of his professional fame was achieved.

At the time Dr. March began to teach anatomy in Albany, that city numbered only 15,000 souls. Anatomical study, with the human subject in process of dissection before the pupil, was not regarded as essential by the profession. Such knowledge was obtained by means of books, plates, dried preparations and didactic teaching. If the profession looked with little favor upon practical anatomy, it could not be expected that the people would view it with greater charity.

The profession in Albany opposed the schemes and plans of Dr. March, both as a teacher and practitioner, because, in the first place, his manner of teaching was greatly in advance of the age in which he lived, and next, because in the field of surgery, which he proceeded to cultivate, they witnessed the breaking down of the old and time-honored barriers of conservatism, by which the practice of that branch of our art had been surrounded. With disregard of opposition based upon such insufficient reasons, he steadily pursued his course, conscientiously depending upon the integrity of his purpose and the truth and justice

of his claims of recognition, and confidently looking for success. And success came, after a comparatively brief period of "looking for the day." In 1825, Dr. March was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Vermont Academy of Medicine, at Castleton. This position he held with great reputation, for ten years, during which time he maintained a private lecture course in Albany, and engaged in general practice.

But the purpose for which he entered the profession, and for which he was continually striving, now began to be manifested. In 1830, after a residence of ten years in Albany, Dr. March delivered a public lecture in that city on the "Propriety of Establishing a Medical College and Hospital" there. The lecture was given to the press, and produced a decided sensation among all classes of people. This was the beginning of an attempt to organize a Medical College in Albany.

A residence of ten years among a people slow, proverbially slow, to appreciate merit, but generous and ready to acknowledge it, when impressed by conviction, had resulted, as might be expected, in attaching to Dr. March a number of earnest and devoted friends, who warmly espoused the cause which lay nearest his heart, and entered zealously upon the undertaking to found a Medical College in that city. The Legislature was petitioned for an act of incorporation, but fierce opposition sprang up, prompted by the profession of the city of Albany, and the combined efforts of the medical schools in the State. The Fairfield Medical College, then in the full tide of success, with a distinguished faculty, entered with great power and

effect in the contest to prevent the organization of a rival school.

It would be uninteresting to this audience to narrate the history of this exciting period of Dr. March's life. For eight years he maintained a struggle with all the Medical Colleges of the State of New York, which, through rich and powerful agencies, sought to thwart his plans. Almost single-handed, he fought the old and favored corporations of the Medical Department of the University of the State of New York, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical College at Fairfield and the Geneva Medical College. The same spirit of invincible courage and determination which he exhibted in early battling with opposition, was shown in this later struggle. But he was no longer an unknown man contending with men and organizations of weight and influence in community.

And by reason of indomitable will and perseverance, he finally achieved success, and on the 3d of January, 1839, after perfecting all necessary arrangements, the first course of lectures in the Albany Medical College was commenced, with a class of fifty-seven students. Dr. March filled the chair of Surgery; Dr. James H. Armsby, of Anatomy and Physiology; Amos Dean, Esq., of Medical Jurisprudence; Dr. Ebenezer Emmons, of Chemistry and Pharmacy; Dr. Henry Greene, of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; Dr. David M. McLachlan, of Materia Medica; and Dr. David Meredith Reese, of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

It was only after the first course of lectures commenced, that the charter of the College was procured from the Legislature. When the citizens of Albany

became fully aroused to the desirability and prospective advantage of having such an institution in operation among them, they applied with such heartiness and effect to the Legislature, that the necessary powers were quickly conferred, and the Albany Medical College took its place upon a par with the old and favored medical schools of the State and country.

I cannot refrain from speaking in this connection, of the signal service rendered the Albany Medical College in the Senate of the State, by the representative from this district, the Hon. John G. McDowell, whose sympathies were all aroused for the intrepid and invincible March, whose efforts to cope with such rival powers as I have mentioned, won the admiration of the large-hearted and magnanimous Senator, and made Dr. March his friend for life.

Soon after I located in Elmira, I was presented to Judge McDowell, who immediately inquired where I had received my medical education. When I replied, in the office of Dr. March and at the Albany Medical College, the Judge warmly grasped me by the hand, and heartily wished me success. An entertaining conversation then followed, respecting the exciting scenes which were enacted in the Senate Chamber during the time when Dr. March was engaged in urging upon that body the propriety of adopting the measures which he so earnestly and persistently presented from session to session.

With the opening of the Medical College, Dr. March inaugurated a novel proceeding in the history of such institutions, which soon became popular and was adopted very generally in the medical schools of the country. It was his custom, every Saturday morning

throughout the lecture term, to present to the pupils in attendance, a large, varied and interesting group of cases, chiefly surgical, upon which he would deliver short addresses, and perform such operations as might be indicated. In this way, in lieu of hospital practice, an immense amount of surgery was brought before the students, comprising the minor as well as the capital and rare and original operations, which made his name so familiar in the history of surgery. This custom was continued from the first Saturday in January, 1839, to the last Saturday during the lecture term of the present year. The amount of surgery displayed to students by means of this uninterrupted exhibition, was immense, numbering many thousands of cases. Some of the most daring and successful of Dr. March's operations were performed in this manner. The removal of enormous tumors by tedious dissection among congested tissues, requiring the frequent ligation of vessels, the amputation of limbs, lithotomy, staphyloraphy, plastic operations, the most delicate ophthalmological manipulations, these were among the wonders of his cunning hand, and the results of his educated diagnostic experience.

It should be understood that the surgical service performed by Dr. March at the Saturday college clinics, by which so many men, women and children were relieved of deformities, infirmities and multiform varieties of suffering, was entirely gratuitous. The summing up of this charitable record would reveal a history of good deeds done to the afflicted, which I am convinced has no parallel in the surgical history of our country.

The success of the Albany Medical College is well known. Its standard of education has always been high. The aim of its teachers has not been to multiply physicians, but to thoroughly qualify them. And as it has never lacked for support and patronage, it has been able to maintain a dignified position and character among schools of distinguished reputation in the country.

Soon after the alteration and occupation of the building known as the Albany Medical College, which had been used as a Lancaster school, and when its prosperity became an assured success, the Medical College at Fairfield was abandoned, and Drs. T. Romeyn Beck, Lewis C. Beck and James McNaughton, of that institution, accepted chairs in the new organization. The brothers Beck died while teaching in their respective departments of Materia Medica and Chemistry, and Professor James McNaughton, the oldest medical teacher in uninterrupted devotion to his duties in the United States, extending through a period of fifty years, venerable with age and full of honor, still lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

Upon the opening of the Albany Medical College, Dr. March had reached his forty-fourth year. He was in the very perfection of mental and physical vigor. He had long since overcome the opposition which assailed him at the outset of his career, and enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice, almost exclusively in the field of surgery. His reputation had spread over the land, and physicians in every portion of it, as well as intelligent laymen, knew him by his achievements. His labors were overwhelming,

and, even from boyhood, he never seemed to think, except when reminded by positive sickness, that a limit could be placed upon his mental and physical application.

The honor that was conferred upon Dr. March, by electing him President of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and subsequently of the American Medical Association, you all know. Williams College honored itself no less than the recipient of its degree, by bestowing upon him the title of Doctor of Laws.

The life of Dr. March, from the foundation of the Albany Medical College, we are all familiar with. He was so intimately identified with the profession, that it seems almost impossible to separate him from its interests. And yet in private life, when he laid aside professional cares and anxieties, and sought to restore his over-worked energies in social pleasures, in the pursuits of agriculture, or in traveling, he was the same animated, intelligent and delightful companion. Amid all the absorbing responsibilities of a large practice, it was his habit, frequently, to devote an afternoon to the labors of his farm, a few miles from the city. In this connection the word *labor* is properly applied. During the few hours on these occasions, which he devoted to what he termed *relaxation*, he accomplished with the pruning knife, the hoe, the scythe, and other implements, as much manual labor as would have satisfied a laboring man that he was doing a full day's work. He would return to his home from these frequent "forays," as they might have been termed, stained, soiled and wet with perspiration, and at the same time rested and refreshed. Dr.

March possessed the quality in a remarkable degree, of being able, in the work which he had in hand, to banish all other considerations from his mind. A surgical operation entirely engrossed his mental as well as physical being. And all the time spent on his farm, by a process of revolution of thought and interest, which allowed a period of mental rest, equally engrossed his attention.

But I must hasten on to allude to one of the chief points of interest in the life of Dr. March. Aside from his wonderful success as an operative surgeon, my first allusion will be to the results of his investigation of hip-disease. From the earliest teaching of surgery, down to within a period of twenty-five years, authors and lecturers alike, regarded the final stage of this affection as the result of dislocation of the head of the femur. You will all bring to mind illustrations of this condition, in which marked indications of dislocation exist, such as shortening of the leg, inversion of the toe, trochanteric prominence, etc. Numerous as were the wet and dry specimens of hip-disease in the medical museums of the country, and much as the subject had been investigated by surgeons, no fact seemed better established than this, that dislocation of the head of the femur was the natural result of the disorganizing process known as hip-disease, *after reaching a certain stage*. In other words, hip-disease, allowed to proceed from one stage to another, from inflammation of the articular extremity of the head of the femur and socket, to final ulceration, always terminated, if recovery took place, in luxation of the bone, either partial, on the margin of the acetabulum, or complete, on the dorsum of the

ilium. For years Dr. March believed this doctrine. But as familiarity with the disease increased, and as morbid specimens multiplied in his possession, and he was led to scrutinize them closely, he began to have misgivings of the correctness of this principle. His attention was more particularly drawn to the subject by the interesting nature of the investigation, and the limited opportunities which our country afforded for studying morbid specimens of hip-disease. He visited many collections, public and private, of any consequence, in the United States, and took copious notes of all important features of the affection, with due regard to their classification and arrangement. Not satisfied with this survey, he went abroad for the second time, if not for the only purpose, at least for the chief purpose of studying the disease in the museums and cabinets of Great Britain and on the continent. Before leaving this country, he had collected, mostly from dissections, the largest number of specimens known to belong to an individual or to an institution in the United States. Indeed, he failed to find in Europe, in a single collection, as many interesting cases of the disease as he possessed. And his going abroad proved the means of adding several specimens to his own collection, which at this time was the most complete, doubtless, in the world.

The result of all this study and investigation established the fact, now universally acknowledged, that dislocation of the femur in hip-disease, though possible under certain circumstances, is the rarest event in the production of morbid changes.

It was satisfactorily shown that the phenomena of the disease ascribed to dislocation, were merely results

of a process of inflammation, terminating in wasting and absorption, which closely resembled that accident.

This explanation, when once made and demonstrated, appears simple enough, and we wonder it was not offered a long time ago. The profession accepted it cautiously, and after many doubts and misgivings, expressed by teachers in the medical schools, by authors, by writers in the journals, as well as by individual practitioners, Dr. March's conclusions were adopted as the true condition of hip-disease, in every part of the enlightened world. The connection of Dr. March with this subject, if he had achieved no other distinction, is enough to stamp him as a bold, original and accurate investigator of disease.

I will briefly allude to a few prominent traits in the character of Dr. March, which stood forth in his common, every-day life.

He always sympathized with and cheerfully aided young as well as older physicians, if they *deserved* sympathy and aid. His office was a general gathering place for physicians, accompanied by patients, who desired his opinions and advice. And he always gave such cases full and minute investigation. His method of examining a case, while it may have lacked the system which embraces one region of the body after another, in a prescribed order, was nevertheless thorough, and rarely failed to elicit the prominent features of the disease or affection under consideration. Narrowing down the indications within certain limits, by a process of exclusion, he arrived at the truth, and seldom erred in surgical diagnosis. He was not infallible in judgment, as I might prove by several instances of error and faulty opinion. It was marvelous to

witness the almost intuitive perception of sense, which seemed to dwell in the ends of his fingers, when they were employed in searching for deep seated matter. And he seldom failed to reveal the evidence of pus, by a free incision, when he had thus committed himself to an opinion.

As a lecturer on surgery, Dr. March was eminently plain and practical. His course during a lecture term was carefully marked out and arranged under heads and subjects. The skeleton or frame-work of this plan was filled up from day to day by illustrations of cases from his immense stores of experience, and by morbid specimens from the shelves of the college museum, where, during all the busy years of his life, they had been rapidly accumulating. This method, while it gave to the lectures the interest of extemporaneous delivery, took away from them the dryness and wearisomeness of a formal presentation of hackneyed topics. That the Doctor's lectures were never tedious, was shown by the large number of students and physicians who always attended them. The latter class, from a young alumnus of the college to an old graduate under Dr. March as teacher of anatomy in Vermont, as well as physicians drawn thither by his reputation for surgical skill, paid him the most marked respect and honor.

His convictions of surgical truth and practice were so strong and abiding, and his desire of impressing them upon students so sincere and conscientious, that he thus acquired great power over his hearers. He never was diverted into fields of speculation or specious reasoning. His mind discarded the *reasoning element*, as rigidly interpreted. I doubt if he compre-

hended the reach and extent of this principle or faculty of the mind, at least, he never attempted to exercise it. This I do not mention in disparagement of the great surgeon; it never seemed to be a deficiency in his own estimation or in the opinion of his friends and admirers. Perhaps his early training, by partaking of the practical, in its fullest and plainest sense, and proceeding on towards adult life in the same toilsome direction, gave him a relish or desire for the exhaustive or demonstrative study of anatomy, upon which he based the whole field of operative surgery.

This suggestion furnishes the key to Dr. March's success as an operator, as well as his readiness as a lecturer. No matter what portion of the wide domain of surgery enlisted his attention, whether the consideration of fractures, wounds of arteries, searching the bladder for a stone, or determining the nature of an obscure affection of the ear, the anatomical construction and relation of parts seemed as familiar in his mind as if he had just given the subject special investigation and study. He rarely consulted works on anatomy. The whole scheme or plan of the body, even to its nicer and more delicate details, was faithfully mirrored in his mind.

In reciting anatomical peculiarities, his nomenclature revealed the system of a former period, while at the same time it embraced the whole subject.

It is not difficult to describe Dr. March's surgical operations. They were maturely considered, if they were at all important, and carefully studied. Authors, from the older recognized standards, including the famous John and Sir Charles Bell, down to

the latest writers of treatises and monograms, were consulted. This ground was patiently gone over, usually at night, after a day of labor, and the entire subject was elaborated in his mind, and a plan of proceeding instituted. This result reached, he lost no time in moving on the operation. And here his genius was fully shown. Every contingency was provided for, every want of the case anticipated. Assistants were duly assigned their duty, and the work proceeded. A single feeling actuated the surgeon, and that was the completion of the operation in as short a time as was compatible with safety. One step followed another, the knife at this moment, a finger at the next proving the guide, until the tumor or diseased limb was removed, the strangulated bowel replaced, or a nicely fitting plastic operation concluded.

It was a favorite maxim with Dr. March, always to use the finger instead of the knife, as long as it could be made available to accomplish the purpose in view.

Dr. March ever stood ready to defend the profession against the corrupt machinations of unprincipled lawyers, who through suits of malpractice, hope and expect, while they obtain damages for their clients, to abundantly reward themselves. Having passed through the ordeal of a malpractice prosecution, which resulted in his acquittal, and having on another occasion successfully vindicated himself in a charge of defamation of character, made by a notorious empiric, whose paste or plaster the Doctor openly asserted had caused the death of a woman to whose breast it had been applied, he was warmly alive to the propriety as

well as necessity of defending his professional brethren, when similarly assailed. He was extensively sought as a witness by physicians who were compelled to answer the hateful charge of malpractice, and I should be lacking in gratitude, if I did not revert to the signal service which he rendered Dr. Squire, our late President, and the writer, in vindication of the mode and manner of an operation for extraction of a loose cartilage from the knee-joint, which led to a suit for damages in 1861.

Dr. March was a kind and humane man. Aside from the river of charity, which regularly, Saturday after Saturday, during the lecture term at the Medical College, flowed through the operating theatre of that institution, he gave, in the every-day discharge of professional duties and in liberal gifts of money, to the poor and afflicted. As God had prospered him in bestowing fame and riches upon him, he regarded himself as a steward in His hand, to dispense the blessings of his art and science, as well as his wealth, to the suffering and needy.

But the crowning merit of Dr. March's life and character consisted in his humble, Christian walk and conversation. Many years ago, in the height of professional activity and achievements, under a deep sense of conviction, he stepped forth upon the path of Christian life, which, during all his subsequent career, he trustingly and faithfully followed.

Thus from the humblest beginning, through poverty, adversity, opposition and reproach, we see how constant was the rise and prosperity of the subject of this notice; how reward came as the sure result of incessant application and devotion to the chief purpose

of life; how fame, honor and wealth were heaped upon him, and how with elevation in the esteem of the world, he humbled himself as a Christian, and devoted all his powers to the advancement of his profession, and the bestowal of priceless gifts of charity to the sick and afflicted, through a long and eventful life.

May his example ever abide with us, and incite us to greater efforts for our fellow men.

EXTRACT

FROM A LETTER FROM DR. ZINA PITCHER, AN EX-PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

"I have myself, in a long professional life, enjoyed the friendship of many distinguished medical men, but there are none left now, between whom and myself, there existed greater congeniality, or closer ties of friendship, than between Dr. March and myself. I loved him for his personal purity; admired him for those graces of character which mark the upright and honorable man, and honored him for those acquirements, and for the exercise of that skill, which distinguished him in his profession. Please, even at this late day, to convey to the surviving relatives my assurances of sympathy for their bereavement and of the reverence with which I cherish the memory of their departed friend."

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

[*From the Western Journal of Medicine, Indianapolis, Ind., July*, 1869.]

Prof. Alden March, of Albany, N. Y., died on the 17th of last month, in his seventy-fourth year.

Those of us who met him at New Orleans last May, could not anticipate, marking his vigorous step and manly form, greeted with his generous smile and the hearty grasp of his hand, that in six weeks he would breathe his last.

It is now about ten years since we first had the honor of making his acquaintance; and our first interview was in one of those cases in which his opinion was worth that of any surgeon in the world, viz: of hip-joint disease.

We feel that his death is to us a personal loss; but this is a minor matter — it is a loss to medicine, to the country and to humanity.

He was indeed a noble man; the crown of his professional greatness and of his noble manhood being the simple faith and life of the Christian.

[*From a Providence. R. I., Journal.*]

The Late Dr. Alden March.

Brown University has perhaps been the Alma Mater of a greater number of distinguished men than any other college in this country. She has sent out into

the world a little army of lawyers, theologians and doctors, as well as poets and artists, whose names are as familiar as household words. But among them all, none have achieved for themselves a more enviable reputation in their respective callings, than the late Dr. Alden March, whose death in Albany, at the ripe age of seventy-four years, occurred last week.

Dr. March was born in Sutton, Worcester county, Massachusetts. His father was a hard-working farmer, and until Alden reached the age of twenty-one, he worked upon his father's farm. During this time, the young man had enjoyed the usual winter's schooling, and had besides this spent one term at an academy. This comprised his education. About this time an elder brother established himself as a physician, and the young man resolved to carve out for himself a name in the same profession. Accordingly, he turned his back upon the farm and commenced reading medicine with his brother, who, in his leisure moments, taught him Latin and Greek.

Professor Ingalls was then lecturing on anatomy and surgery, under the patronage of Brown University, and by dint of prudence our young student got together money enough to enable him to attend the course, which he did. At last graduating and receiving a diploma from Brown University, with this and a stout heart as his capital, he reached Albany, and at the age of twenty-five commenced the practice of medicine there. A stranger, with rivals who were skillful, and at the same time already established, for several years the struggle was a hard one; but steadfast, undaunted, an ardent lover of the pursuit he had chosen, he passed on, determined to succeed at all hazard. At the end

of ten years Dr. March had achieved so enviable a reputation as a surgeon that students came to him from Albany and the adjoining cities, and listened with pleasure and profit to the lectures which he gave to private classes.

In 1839, Dr. March, with his brother-in-law, Dr. J. H. Armsby of Albany, and others, succeeded in establishing the Albany College of Medicine and Surgery, which now enjoys a first class reputation.

There is hardly an operation known to modern surgery that Dr. March has not performed. He has practiced lithotomy some thirty times upon patients from three to seventy years of age, with general success, and has probably made more successful amputations than any surgeon in his section of the country.

Dr. March, personally, was a man of strikingly commanding appearance, full six feet high, and as erect as an Indian, apparently not over fifty-five years of age; he bore in his own person a rare example of the good effects of a life of temperance and sobriety, which the young men of the present day would do well to follow. His life was a long and useful one, and he has left behind him in the memory of those who knew him, a monument more lasting than a monument of brass — a record of good deeds, for which he is now reaping an eternal reward. L.

[*From an Omaha Journal.*]

Death of Alden March, M. D., of Albany, N. Y.

On Thursday morning, the 19th inst., at the age of 73 years, Dr. Alden March, of Albany, passed from this earth in the fullness of his professional fame. The history of this great and good man is full of the deepest interest. It is well calculated to fill the young mind with high, noble and pure resolves. Indeed his life, his efforts and achievements, his principles and opinions, his glory and virtue, are precious to the profession he loved and served so ably and successfully, so indefatigably and unselfishly.

I may not, in this place, attempt the language of eulogy upon the immortal March; this is being done by the master spirits of the profession, men worthy of the task, worthy as was Pericles to pronounce the honors of the Athenian dead. I crave, however, to be permitted to throw a passing flower to his honored memory. He was my excellent teacher, my honored master, my generous friend.

I cannot here even pass in rapid review some of the most salient points of his eventful life, cannot even mention those able and exhaustive medical productions which brought him so prominently and favorably before the medical profession of his country. This will be the sacred and grateful duty of the biographer.

He has gone; as a human being indeed he is no more; but yet he is not dead. He will live in coming time, live as one of the greatest surgical lumina-

ries of the 19th century, and his name will be a "moose-track in the vast ocean of history." He goes down to the grave ripe in years, but riper in wisdom and virtue — a great surgeon, an honored citizen, an exemplary Christian. The praises of those who knew him best, and the benedictions of thousands, blessed by his kindness and skill, follow him.

But the crowning glory of his exalted worth is that he was loved and honored even more for the purity of his private character, his sterling integrity, his unsullied honor and his Christian example, than for his extraordinary and masterly ability and skill.

> "Ne'er to the chambers where the mighty rest,
> Since their foundation came a nobler guest,
> Nor e'er was to the bowers of bliss conveyed,
> A fairer spirit or more welcome shade."

One who Knew Him.

[*From the Albany Argus, June* 18, 1869.]

The Death of Dr. Alden March.

The death of this distinguished surgeon, yesterday morning, was heard of by our citizens generally, with profound regret. To very many of them, to whom, for periods extending back to nearly half a century, he had been the trusted and beloved physician, it was felt to be a personal calamity.

The feeling of affection growing out of this endeared relation extends, however, beyond our own city. It will be felt by hundreds throughout the

State, in every portion of which his fame had extended, and his professional services been called into requisition.

His death will be regarded by the medical profession, throughout the country, as a loss to the cause of medical science. No surgeon in the United States, perhaps none in Europe, was held in higher estimation than Dr. March. Certainly no one in this country, in private practice alone, has performed so many bold and difficult and delicate surgical operations, and with such remarkable success. His reports of cases occurring in his practice, though few in comparison with the magnitude of his operations, have been received with the highest favor here, and widely re-published in the medical magazines of Europe.

We do not propose to write an obituary of the deceased. The record of his professional skill and services, and his high personal character, may be safely left to the care of his professional brethren of Albany.

[*From the Daily Knickerbocker, June* 18, 1869.]

The Death of Dr. Alden March.

The medical profession, of our city, have lost another good man. Dr. Alden March died at the residence of his son-in-law, David I. Boyd, at an early hour yesterday morning.

The deceased was born in Sutton, Worcester County, Mass., 1795, and was therefore in his 74th year. He studied medicine with an elder brother, who was Surgeon in the United States Army, and

attended medical lectures in Boston. He graduated at the Brown University, Providence, R. I., which, at that time, had a Department of Medicine. Williams College conferred the degree of LL. D. on Dr. March, and he was an Honorary Member of most of the leading societies of this country. He came to Albany in 1820, and immediately commenced the practice of his profession, which he pursued with untiring devotion and success until his death. He was looked up to as the father of the profession in this city, where he has devoted nearly half a century to the practice of medicine and surgery. His reputation was world-wide, and his death will be deeply mourned, and his memory long cherished, by a very extensive circle of acquaintances.

HOME LIFE OF DR. MARCH.

However much may be said of the public and professional life of Dr. March, his domestic and home life was marked with rare consistency and beauty.

Simple in all his tastes and habits, genial and loving in his family, he engaged with especial interest in all those little things which form so large a part of the happiness of the family circle.

A rigid system marked all his daily life. Each hour of the day had its fixed duties, and nothing could deter him from their regular fulfillment. He was prompt to the *moment*, whether it related to the simple arrangements of his home, or to some important surgical operation or public duty. His custom was to rise at or before the hour of six o'clock, summer and winter; the first hour being devoted to reading the daily papers; at seven o'clock the family were gathered for morning devotions, a duty never omitted or hurried through. The chapter selected from the Bible was carefully read, a hymn as carefully read and sung, followed by earnest simple prayer. His petitions were direct and concise, relating to all the wants and circumstances of the family circle, never omitting to ask that God would direct him in the means best calculated to relieve the sick and suffering who might apply to him for relief, feeling deeply conscious that his own skill would be wholly unavailing without God's bless-

ing. While he shrank from publicity in religious duties, feeling "unworthy to take a part," as he expressed it, in the social prayer meeting — yet the interests of his country, the Church of Christ at large, the poor and needy around him, were daily fervently commended to God at the family altar. His own church and pastor were remembered with an eloquence that impressed all who listened. The hours of the morning, until dinner, were devoted to his professional labors, after which he allowed himself a short season of rest. During the summer and autumn he was accustomed daily to visit his farm, a short distance from the city, where he worked as earnestly and diligently as he had the former part of the day in his profession; enjoying with the keenest delight the growth of his trees, fruits, vegetables, &c. He had almost a passionate love for flowers, cultivating and training them in his own garden, always deriving great delight in picking the first rose, lily or choice flower, and quietly placing it beside the plate of some member of the family at the morning meal; and rarely took a drive into the country without stopping to gather wild flowers.

He had also an enthusiastic love for music, especially the singing of the family and sanctuary, in which he always joined, feeling disappointed if the tunes were not familiar. He always began on Saturday morning to prepare for the Sabbath, anticipating as much as possible all professional calls, closing the week with a complete record of all the cases in which he had consulted or operated, every business obligation canceled, so that nothing would obtrude upon the sacredness of the holy day.

It had been a rule of his life that no letters received during the day should remain unanswered before retiring, consequently with a large correspondence, the midnight hour usually found him writing at his study table.

He never absented himself from the sanctuary on the Sabbath, or from the weekly prayer meeting, except in case of severe illness or imperative necessity, and was equally anxious that his entire family should be there. This feeling was strongly exhibited in his last illness. The first Sabbath that he was confined to the house, he said, as one came in from the morning service, "Oh! come and tell me all about the sermon and the music too; did you have good singing?" and then exclaimed, "Oh! I feel that I must go this evening." The second Sabbath of his illness, as the bells were ringing for church, when dear ones stood at his bed-side, soothing and nursing, he said — "Now leave me and get ready for church." His daughter replied, "Why, dear father, you would not have us leave you while so sick!" he said, "I am very comfortable, and I don't wish you to lose so great a blessing."

His generous aid in the building of the church and in the support of its ordinances, and his contributions to philanthropic and benevolent objects have been alluded to elsewhere. But I may and must speak of his private charities. Like his prayers they were quiet and unobtrusive, often known only to himself and the recipient. Many a widow's and orphan's heart have been cheered by his timely aid.

In his family he was preëminently genial, social but not loquacious, never talking unless he had something to say.

He scorned all deceit and affectation, and possessed that integrity of word and of act that nothing could move or weaken. He courted favor of no one, only asking to stand on his own merits. His habits of order, neatness and system were so remarkable as to excite the admiration of observers; and if his private students and domestics sometimes thought him too exacting in these particulars, they soon learned to regard him with respect and love.

Said a student in graduating from the Medical College, "I shall ever be grateful that I was permitted, not only to listen to the instructions of Dr. March, but more than all that I enjoyed such an opportunity of daily observing his character and habits, not merely as a surgeon but as a man. It is my highest ambition to imitate his noble qualities." Many young men who have graduated from his office have asserted that their success in their profession and life they owe to Dr. March.

This and much more might be said of the private character of him whose voice is now forever hushed in that home made bright by his presence, but now so desolate.

Should the accusation of partiality be brought against this sketch, because drawn by a loving hand, I will quote a remark of an occasional visitor in the family: "It is impossible for you to exaggerate the domestic character of Dr. March. His daily life was the embodiment of all that was noble, just and true in a Christian."

Last Illness.

The past winter had been marked with his usual devotion to business. In the early spring his strength was severely taxed by professional duties in the city and out, anticipating a trip to New Orleans to attend the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. He sailed from New York for Charleston April 24th, going from thence to New Orleans by railroad. The meeting commenced on Tuesday the 4th of May, and he participated in all its deliberations with interest and zeal, meeting many old friends and also making new acquaintances, all of whom seemed happy to show him attention and regard. In a letter to his family, he says, "I am the oldest member of the Convention. There are those present who say they attended my first course of lectures forty-four years ago, which reminds me that I am an old man." He made a rapid journey homeward, arriving Wednesday, the 12th of May. He returned full of health and happiness, with every prospect of years of future usefulness and activity. But not many days after he began to feel symptoms of approaching illness, and notwithstanding the earnest solicitations of family and physicians, continued active in his profession until Thursday, May 27th, when he was persuaded to yield to medical treatment. Thursday evening was spent with his daughter and family, and feeling quite ill he was induced to pass the night with them, expecting to return to his own home in the morning. He was too ill, however, to do so. Although his disease made rapid progress, no alarming symptoms were manifest

until the following Monday, when, for several hours, his life seemed in great danger. Obtaining some relief, the next day his physicians gave hope of his rallying from this attack, though not of a permanent cure.

After this his mind became so much affected that he did not realize his danger until Tuesday of the following week, when his mind became perfectly clear, and he expressed the conviction that he had not long to live. He summoned the family together and requested that a clergyman might be sent for, that "we might have," as he expressed it, "a little prayer meeting." He said "I am not alarmed at the prospect of death; I have long ago committed my immortal interests to GOD; I am perfectly resigned to live or to die, and I want you should be." With words of affectionate love and counsel he addressed each member of the family, and after being fervently commended to GOD in prayer by the Rev. Mr. BLAYNEY, he united with those around his bed-side in singing,

> "Shall we gather at the river,
> The beautiful river that flows by the throne of GOD?"

It was a season of deep and tender interest never to be forgotten. In his own words it was truly "a step towards heaven. During the night he rallied, and the next day found him very comfortable. On Thursday the same symptoms of depression returned, and he felt that he was sinking. Again he longed for those near and dear him to be summoned, and all his children and grand-children, relatives, and even servants, received from him an affectionate farewell,

accompanied by words of loving advice. During this time he gave renewed expressions of his trust in Christ, and his perfect willingness to die, saying, "all is peace!" Again a prayer was offered, in which he fervently united, and then listened to the sweet songs, — "Sweet Land of Rest for Thee I Sigh," "There is Rest for the Weary," and "Beautiful River," in which he feebly joined. Rallying somewhat, he asked for his colleagues and a few intimate friends and students who had known and loved him, to each of whom he gave a parting word. His strength returned through the night, so that he was not only hopeful himself, but his physicians spoke strongly of the prospect of recovery. Saturday his symptoms were more discouraging, and continued thus through the day and night, until Tuesday, with however a few intervals of consciousness. During these lucid moments, he reiterated his hope in Christ, desired to go to his rest, joined in his familiar hymns with the family, and heartily responded to the many precious texts repeated in his ear, and on one occasiou he even commenced the hymn "Rock of Ages," and with feeble voice and accent accompanied the family through each verse. Early on the morning of Tuesday, when his daughter went to his bed-side, he asked her to sing "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," a favorite hymn, and one which he long ago had requested might be sung at his funeral, and then with eyes closed, and apparently unconscious, he uttered this brief prayer: "Oh! Thou who didst take upon Thyself the penalty of our transgressions, and bore the curse of the law, take us unto Thy arms, and receive us into rest and glory." About 5 o'clock Tuesday P. M., it appeared

that death was inevitable, and it seemed as if in a few hours he would be at rest; but he lingered on, suffering intensely until a few moments past 7 o'clock Thursday morning (June 17th), when the spirit took its flight.

Thus ended the painful illness of one whose memory is so deeply cherished by his family, and those who knew him intimately.

He died as he had often expressed his wish to die, "with the harness on," and we feel assured he has gone to his reward.

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